# A Child Educational Series

## My book of 365 stories

## Part one

- A collection of stories from the Quran; Ahadeeth; History and Seerah books.
- Based on 365 days of the year.
- Thought-provoking and educational Stories.
- Instilling the Love of Allaah Ta'ala and … Muhammad ρ. A book of Character-building and creating love; respect and honour for parents through inspiration.
- To be read on your own as well as story-telling
- For the kids.

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بسم ا لله ا لرحمن ا لرحيم

# FOREWORD

Assalamu Alykum wa Rahmatullah wa Barakaatuh

The name ‘365 stories’ seems to be quite a strange name. But when one takes into account the contents of the book, then one realizes that the name is quite appropriate. In fact 365 days makes a full solar year. This compilation of 365 stories is in fact a collection for a full year.

Our little ones would comfortably be able to read these stories one per day with ease. In this way the whole year would be completed reading this book. Thereafter, if they wish they may begin all over again for the next year. This book may be given to them as a ‘gift.’ It may also be called ‘a gift for the whole year.’

As far as the stories are concerned, all of them have been extracted from the Noble Quran; Ahadeeth; History and Seerah books. Each story comes with a moral at the end. Included are all kinds of stories, ranging from eye-opening and thought-provoking ones to funny and snoopy stories.

Also noteworthy is that, these 365 Islaamic stories have been expressed in a way that will stimulate the little ones’ minds.

Wassalaam

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## COMPILERS NOTE

Friends!

Allaah Taala, in the Noble Quran speaks about the previous nations, the incidents and experiences of the good and the evil ones amongst them. Certainly, stories of previous people help us reflect and ponder over our actions.

While the incidents and blessed happenings of pious people motivate us to do good actions, the punishments and ill occurrences of the evil ones discourage us from committing evil.

That is why we should read more about the Ambiyaa and the pious people. Our hearts will then become resolute in doing good actions.

Junaid Baghdadi RA says: “stories are a weapon from the weapons of Allaah Taala, through which He makes us firm and steadfast.” Hence it is mentioned in the Noble Quran: “O Mohammed! We relate to you the incidents of the Ambiyaa to strengthen your heart.” [Surah Hood - V 120]

In addition, Rasulullaah ρ has stressed about the correct upbringing of our beloved children. Thus he says: “Teach your sons to swim.” [Nuzhatul Basaateen Pg 43]
On another occasion he said: “Teach your siblings Surah Yusuf.” [Kanz]

Yet, on one more occasion he said: “When they become seven years of age, then teach them to perform Salaah.” [Ibnu Katheer – 4; 494]

There are many Ahadith that teach us education for our children. And, in the Seerah of Rasulullaah ρ many such incidents are recorded.

All Praises are due to Allaah Taala! This book which is in your hands is the first part of the 365 stories. It was prepared as per the days of the year. Our beloved children may read one story at a time, per night. Or, mother could read it to them as a bed-time story. And then teach them the moral that comes at the end of each story. This way, Insha Allaah! Our children will grow up practicing on the morals they learn.

The stories will inculcate in our children, the greatness of Allaah Taala; love of Rasulullaah ρ; good character and the importance of respect for parents. Also, the rewards for been good and many other valuable lessons that we will learn as we read on.

## 1. THE SILLY AND IMMATURE BOY

Once upon time there was a wrestler who learnt three hundred and sixty wrestling techniques. Every day he wrestled using one of his unique techniques. However, amongst his pupils there was a boy who was very good at wrestling. The teacher had only taught him (the boy) three hundred and fifty-nine techniques. He kept away from teaching him the last one. The boy again and again asked his teacher to teach him the last technique. But the teacher did not.

As the years went by, the boy excelled and became a master in wrestling. No one dared to challenge him. This filled him with pride. He even went as far as telling the king arrogantly: “I only owe gratitude to my teacher for his old age, not for his strength. I am far stronger than him, and in wrestling I am equal to him.”

The King was upset at the boy’s statement. That he disrespects his teacher in such a way. So he ordered a wrestling contest between the boy and the teacher. The stage was set and arrangements made for everyone to watch. The King too came along with his courtiers; ministers; and all his wrestlers. The proud boy made his appearance on the stage. He walked with arrogance stamping his feet like a drunken elephant. As if he could move a mountain from its place.

On the other side, the teacher realized that the boy was stronger than him. So, he prepared himself to use his last technique, which he had kept away from teaching the boy. Hence, the wrestling match began and the teacher overpowered the boy picking him up on his shoulder and throwing him down on the floor. The boy started to make sounds and noises of defeat. The teacher won!

As a reward to the winner, the king ordered gifts for the teacher. And, then he reprimanded the boy saying: “O silly one! you could not even fulfil your false claim of defeating your teacher.”

The immature boy replied: “O King! It was not a defeat based on strength, but rather, my teacher had cheated on me by not showing me the last technique.” The teacher said: “Of course! It was for this very same reason, after all, that I did not teach you all of the wrestling techniques. That one day you may become my opponent, and I may be able to overpower you.”

MORAL: A teacher will always remain a teacher. A pupil must not attempt to surpass his/her teacher. How would we ever be able to succeed without our teacher’s help?

No matter how far we succeed in life, we must always value and have high regard for our teachers. Be humble before them and always regard ourselves as their students.

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## 2. NOW, WHO IS THE INTELLIGENT ONE?

There was a prince who was short and ugly. He had a brother who was tall and handsome. One day the King was looking at his short and ugly prince with contempt. The prince sensed the behaviour of his father and said to him with respect:

“O my father! A man of short stature man is more intelligent than a tall and stupid one. And, a small sized item often happens to be very valuable.”

Now, a war broke out in the kingdom. The enemy were fierce. Both the armies were ready for battle. And, the first to approach the enemy was the same prince of short stature. He was saying: “I am not of those who remain behind in battle… but I am from those who are prepared to die in battle.”

Saying this, the prince at once moved forward and viciously attacked the enemy killing some of their main soldiers.

Since, the enemy’s soldiers were more than that of the king, a group of his soldiers decided to run away. The prince saw this and cried out a loud slogan. He warned them: “Do not be cowards!!! Fight bravely!!!”

When they heard the Prince calling like that, they attacked the enemy at once. Their attack was so fierce that the Kings army won the battle.

The King immediately realized the status of the prince - his son. He began to show love and affection towards him. The King understood that the right person to take over his kingdom was the short and ugly prince. Not the other prince who was tall and handsome. He started showing even more love and affection towards this prince, son of his. His love and affection increased so much for him that the King now decided to make him the heir to his throne.

When the other brother found out about this he became jealous. One day he poisoned his food. Luckily!!! The prince’s sister saw what he was doing from her bedroom window. She alerted her brother by knocking on his window and making signs, not to eat. The prince was intelligent. He immediately understood what she was trying to tell him. He did not eat the food. He said: “It is not possible for good people to die and for bad people to take their place.” The King came to know about what the big brother tried to do. He reprimanded him and punished him. After that he separated his kingdom into two and gave each brother their own portion of his kingdom. They then lived happily ever after.

MORAL: In times of difficulties, we must always think before we act. For acting without thinking may cause us harm. To be intelligent does not necessarily mean that we must be tall and handsome. We must always make it a habit of thinking before we do anything.

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## 3. FIRST WEIGH, AND THEN SPEAK

There was once a Goldsmith sitting at his shop. An old man came to him and asked him for a scale to weigh his gold-dust.

The Goldsmith said to him: “I do not have a sieve”.

The old man looked at him in surprise and said to him: “do not make a joke of me, just give me a scale.”

The Goldsmith said: Sir! “Neither do I have a sieve in my shop nor do I have a broom. Where do you want me to get them from?”

The old man stared at the goldsmith annoyingly, thinking that he was deaf and mad.
He changed the tone of his voice and shouted out angrily: “O insane one! I am not asking you for a sieve nor for a broom! Why do you keep giving me such upside-down answers? All I want is a scale to weigh my gold-dust!”

The Goldsmith raised his voice too and shouted back at the old man: “But sir! Can you not hear what I am saying? I’m telling you again! I do not have a sieve nor a broom. Don’t you understand!?”

He then lowered the tone of his voice and said: “O my brother! I have heard everything you said. Neither am I deaf nor am I mad. I was just looking at your condition and thought to myself, that you are an old man and you do not have much strength. You are weak and shabby; your whole body is shaking due to your old age. The gold-dust that you wish to weigh is also gone old; it has lost its full value. When you lift up the gold-dust with your shaky hands to put it onto the scale, it will surely fall onto the ground. Then you would ask me for a broom to gather the gold-dust from the floor. And, then after you sweep it up, the dirt from the floor would be mixed up with the gold dust. Then, you will ask me for a sieve to separate the dirt from the dust. That is why, old man! For goodness sake, from the beginning I told you, that I do not have a sieve nor a broom.”

Now, go and look for a scale somewhere else.

The poor old man was dumbfounded. He lowered his head in shame and walked away.

MORAL: From this story we learn that we should think before we say anything. Wise people always say: “weigh before you speak.” i.e. before doing anything we must first think of its consequences. It must not be such that we regret afterwards.
The intelligent one first measures the result of his actions, and then does it. A foolish person acts first, before checking the results.

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## 4. O, THE RED SOCKED ONE!

The lion fell ill. All the animals of the jungle heard about this and came to visit the lion. He was very pleased to see how loyal they were all to him. Except for the fox, who was no where to be seen.

“Where’s the fox?” asked the lion.

The sheep muttered: “O Your Royal Highness! The fox does not care about you. That is why we do not see him anywhere around.”

The lion roared: “When he comes, just tell me.”

After a little while the fox appeared. The sheep whimpered: “there! O Your Royal Highness! He has finally come after roaming about.”

The lion yelled angrily at the fox and asked for a reason for his delay. The fox cunningly explained: “O High One! As soon as I heard of your illness I ran hither and thither searching for the perfect cure.”

“And what did you find?” mumbled the lion.

“O High One! I learnt that the cure to your illness is found in the lower leg of the sheep. But only, you must get hold of it all by yourself.”

The lion, at that instant pounced on the sheep and with its sharp claws ripped off its lower-leg-skin.

The sheep started to bleed profusely. At this, the fox silently disappeared from there and made its way to the roadside waiting for him. A little while later, the sheep came along limping in blood.

The fox laughed out saying: “O, the red socked one! When you sit by the King; think first, before you ever mutter anything.

MORAL: Do not have ill feelings of the next person, because someday you may also be in his/her situation. And, before saying anything, think over it carefully. Always say something that will benefit and not harm you or the next person.

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## 5. THE TRUTH REVEALED

When the call to the oneness of Allaah Ta'ala destroyed the idols the Quraysh went to Rasulullaah ρ's uncle Abu Talib and complained to him: "O Abu Talib! your nephew is talking bad of our idols. Therefore, speak to him." Abu Talib listened to them and sent them away. But, Rasulullaah ρ carried on fulfilling his duty of calling to One Allaah.

After a few days all the leaders of the disbelievers gathered and went again to Abu Talib. They told him: "O Abu Talib! we are quiet just because of you, but you are not stopping your nephew from what he is doing. How much longer must we tolerate this? He degrades our idols! We respect you. That is why we are not doing anything about it. But, we cannot tolerate this anymore. You better make your nephew understand. Otherwise, move away from between us and him and also let us sort this out in the open."

Abu Talib saw that now the situation is becoming serious. The Quraysh are persisting and are not willing to listen to anything anymore. How will I challenge them all alone? He went to his nephew, Rasulullaah ρ, and told him everything: "O my nephew! O my coolness of my eyes! Do not make it so difficult on me that I cannot manage anymore."

Upon listening to his uncle's talk, Rasulullaah ρ's eyes filled with tears. He thus said: "O my uncle! If these people put the sun in my one hand and the moon in the other hand, still I would not give up my duty of calling towards One Allaah."

These words affected Abu Talib so much that he said: "O my nephew! Go ahead and do your work no one will be able to harm you."

When the Quraysh saw that nothing is working, they elected Uqbah as their representative. Uqbah went to Rasulullaah ρ and offered him three things: "O Muhammad! Tell us what is it that you really want? Is it power that you are seeking? Then we are prepared to make you the leader over us. Is it women that you seek? Then we will marry you to the best woman. Is it wealth that you seek? Then we will give you all the wealth you want. We will give you any of these. Only one thing we want from you. Please stop talking ill of our idols. We will listen to everything you have to say to us."

Rasulullaah ρ listened to Uqbah and said: "O Uqbah! I have just come with the simple message of Allaah Taala. What do I have to do with what you have offered me?"

Then he recited a few verses of the Noble Quran: "O Muhammad! Tell them that I am just a human like you. But the revelation has come to me. Tell them that your Rabb is my Rabb. Therefore, return to Him and do good. Do not associate any partners with

Him."

Upon listening to these words, Uqbah could not say anything. He went to his people and suggested to them. "Please do not say anything anymore about Muhammad. Just leave him in what he is doing. I just heard him. Whatever he is saying is not just any work of poetry. His talk is more than poetry. If he is successful in what he is doing, then that would be good for you. And, if he is unsuccessful in his object then he will stop and fall away automatically. Just leave him."

The Quraysh were stubborn and did not listen to what Uqbah advised them. They were proud and did not take Uqbah's suggestions.

MORAL: We must not fear anyone when telling the truth.

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## 6. THE MOST VIRTUOUS OF DEEDS

As the sun rose one morning over a remote village, the villagers woke up to see, that during the night a stranger had put up a grass hut on the banks of the river. Fear gripped them, as they did not know who the stranger was.

They got together and discussed amongst themselves what to do. They decided to all go out to the river bank and find out. As they approached the hut, the stranger heard their footsteps and quickly came out. He was an old man! He greeted them with "Assalamu Alaykum!"

The villagers were surprised to see the old man. They looked at one another with big eyes. Who could the old man be? Who has come out and greeted them?

"Old man! Who are you and where do you come from?" asked one of them.

The old man replied: "Allaah's earth is huge and vast. I do not have a wife and children. I have been roaming everywhere for a long time now, from one city to another, and from one village to another. I have the zeal to spread the message of Allaah. I cannot rest without doing this, even for a moment"

"Old Man! Then why did you take the trouble of building this hut here? There was no need for it! You could have come to the village and we would have arranged for your stay; food and drink?"

The old man said: "Allaah is our Creator and Nourisher. He has provided for all of us our sustenance. I make things from the branches and leaves of trees, which I sell. That is my means of living. I do not need anything more. I really appreciate your sincerity. In actual fact, I was supposed to come to you first, but you have come to me."

The villagers said: "You are most welcome, Old man! You may come here even a hundred of times."

The next day the old man wore a clean white scarf and walked towards the village. He saw a few ladies doing their household chores. But, they were going about without any scarves on their heads. The old man stopped by them saying: "O my beloved daughters! Our beloved Nabi, Rasulullaah ρ, has prohibited women from coming out of their homes uncovered."

One of the women looked at her friend in astonishment and remarked: "No one has ever told us such a thing before! Who are you old man?"

The old man replied: "Whenever you hear good advice you should act on it immediately." He gave this advice and walked on further.

As he was walking, he saw a few children playing marbles and they were swearing at each other. The old man went near to them and greeted them with love and affection. He spoke to them gently saying: “O my children! Good kids do not waste their time in things that do not benefit them. Read, write and learn. But, in your free time help your parents around the house.”
The children heard these words for the first time in their life. They found it to be such kind words that immediately they took their marbles, threw them away and ran off to their homes.

The day was coming to an end. And, the old man met many more different kinds of people, giving advises to them. Some welcomed his advises whilst others did not.
In a few days, goodness and happiness replaced evil and ignorance. Love spread amongst the people. Hatred and enmity was no more.

Then one day, early in the morning the old man packed his things and went towards the village. The villagers were still praying and having their breakfast. They were about to begin their daily chores, when the old man called out to all of them from an open field. “O people! Come here! I have something to tell you!”

The villagers all gathered by him. And he addressed them thus:

“O people! When I came here, I was a stranger to you. You welcomed me and respected me. I just want to say that I am really grateful to you for your hospitality. But as you know that I am a traveller. And, today I will be leaving you and proceeding to another village. I hope that the light of goodness, which I started here, does not leave you. Carry on doing the good deeds I have taught you. Happiness and love will prevail in your village.”

The old man said these words, picked up his few belongings, placed them on his shoulder and started to leave. The villagers were very sad to see the old man leaving them. Their eyes were filling with tears.

The Imam of the Masjid recited this verse of the Quran: “And whose speech is better than that person who calls towards Allaah, and he says that I am from the Muslims.”

The villagers listened to this and made a firm intention that they will follow the footsteps and advice of the old man by doing good deeds themselves and also encouraging others to do the same.

MORAL: Rasulullaah ρ said: “Blessings rest with your elders.” i.e. The elderly always encourage towards good deeds. In doing good deeds we attract blessings from Allaah Ta’ala.

Therefore we should always sit in the company of the elders and act on their advises. The elders always advise us to tell the truth. By telling the truth, you would very quickly become a good child and the elders will always love you.

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## 7. THE VOICE OF THE TRUTH

In the land of Arabia, when life was made difficult for the Muslims – friends had become foes and the well known were now treated as total strangers – then a small group of devout Muslims decided to emigrate. It was very difficult for them to leave their land of birth and childhood. But their zeal and strong love for Islaam pushed them to make the move. They left for an absolutely foreign and unknown land.

The King of Abyssinia Najaashi, known as As'hamah, welcomed them and then called all of them to his court. He asked them to explain their reason for coming to Abyssinia. The famous companion Ja'far τ represented the Muslims. Ja'far τ gave an impressive speech, which is often referred to as an important chapter in the pages of Islaamic history. He painted the gloomy picture of the 'Days of Ignorance'. And, he described the outstanding teachings of Islaam.

He said: "O King! We were a people living in darkness and ignorance. We worshipped idols and ate carrion (dead animals). We were lost in shamelessness. We often broke-up family ties and treated our neighbours badly. The strong amongst us oppressed the weak. We were covered in total darkness and ignorance until Allaah Ta'ala sent a Nabi to us. He was a Nabi whose truthfulness; honesty; trustworthiness and purity were all very well-known to us. He made us aware of the wonders of Allaah Taala and he invited us to His worship. He guided us away from worshiping that which we and our forefathers were worshipping. He taught us trustworthiness; the importance of joining family times and treating the neighbours kindly. He taught us to stay away from forbidden and prohibited things and he stressed upon us not shed one another's blood. He commanded us to avoid associating partners with Allaah Ta'ala and to worship Him alone. He also commanded us to make Salaah, give Zakaah and Fast.

Hence, we accepted his message and brought Imaan (faith) in him. Whatever Allaah Ta'ala sent him with, we obeyed. Now, we only worship Allaah Ta'ala and we do not associate partners with Him. We do only that which is allowed and stay away from the prohibited.

For this reason, our people have made us their enemies and they are putting us through various kinds of tests. They wish that we would come back to worshiping idols with them and to once again do the forbidden things. They want us to return to evil and become as we were before.

When they persisted and became intolerable towards us, then we decided to come to your country for safety. We wish to live with you as good neighbours. Thus, O King! kindly look at us favourably."

This was the ‘voice of the truth’ that came out from the sincere heart of Ja’far τ. It had such and impact on the King that it touched his heart and filled his eyes with tears. His eminent fore-sight saw the light of Islaam, which attracted him to testify the Kalima.

MORAL: From this story we learn that, Islaam is the religion that teaches us the worship of One Allaah, alone. And, we are the followers of such a teaching. Today too, if we practice on the teachings of Islaam, then our speech will be as effective as that of the illustrious Sahabah τ.

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## 8. THE EYES OF THE HEART

Little sister was sitting in the lounge watching TV. This irritated Yaasir, her big brother very much. Yaasir was a good boy who often sat in the company of the pious. His thinking was different from that of the rest of the family. He was punctual with his Salaah and fasts. And, he stayed away from evil. He continuously tried to make an effort on reforming his family, but to no avail.

“Mother! Nowadays I enjoy coming home.” Yaasir remarked: glancing at the television in the lounge – which was switched off on doctor’s instructions –.

“Yes my son! But, it’s only a few more days left until the doctors restrictions come to an end. Then your father and I will once again watch TV.”

“Do you have any objections son!” mother said, sternly.

“No mum! What can I say? Around here, I have to do as you say.” He answered: smiling falsely and walking towards his room.

The days went by…

Today was the doctor’s appointment. Little sister went for her check-up and was relieved to hear from the doctor that she can now watch television again.

As mother promised, she handed her the stack of movies that were rapped-up in some lovely paper. Little sister was overjoyed with happiness. She at once, started browsing through the titles looking for her favourite movie. She inserted the movie into the player and was about to press play, when Yaasir rushed in and shouted out, “Wait! Wait a minute!”

“What has happened big brother!” little sister asked.

Mother knew Yaasir’s intentions and interrupted harshly: “Yaasir! Now, don’t you start with your lectures, hey? My child has being patient for quite a while now.”

“But mother!” Yaasir remarked softly. “May I ask you something?

Mother replied angrily: “Yeah, sure! What is it?

Yaasir said: “O Mother! Is it not normal, that as a mother, you cannot endure seeing little sister in pain? You naturally become restless?”

“Now, consider for a moment the hereafter. The pain of Jahannam is much more severe than the pain of the world. Imagine burning in the fire where hot and melted led will be poured into the ears. And, the hands and legs will be fastened in tight chains. O mother! Will you then, be able to endure the pain?”

“You have so much of confidence in the doctor’s advice that you took his instruction instantly, when he stopped little sister from watching TV for a month, as this was harmful for her eyesight. But, as for the punishment of Allaah Ta’ala, you do not show any importance to it.”

“This indicates that you do not have any faith in that which Allaah Ta’ala and his Messenger ρ have said. Rather, you consider the doctor to be more learned. The moment the doctor advises on something, you act immediately.”

“The life of this world is temporarily and the life of the hereafter is eternal. We must show more worry and concern for the hereafter. Allaah Taala loves us more than what mother’s love their children. But, as for those who do not worry about His commandments, Allaah Taala will not have any mercy on them on the day of Qiyaamah.”

“Kindly, ponder over what I have said.” Yaasir spoke.

The room was silent throughout the duration of Yaasir’s speech. All of them listened attentively. This was the first time in their life that they listened with all their heart. And they realized the truth.

MORAL: Allaah Taala loves us very much. Therefore we must not make Him angry by disobeying Him. And, just like Yaasir, we too must have good friends and stay away from bad company.

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## 9. TO BE ASHAMED

Zaynab was the eldest daughter of her parents. She was an obedient daughter. However, she just lacked in one aspect that was of not reading Salaah. Her parents were very punctual with their Salaah. Her mother explained to her many times to perform Salaah, but she would listen with one ear and take it out from the other ear.

One day her father said that his friend from America was coming with his daughter Fatima. They were going to stay with them for a few days. Zaynab was very happy and anxious to meet her new friend. She eagerly awaited the day.

At last, the day came when Fatima and her father arrived from America. After supper, Zaynab's mother advised the children to wake up four Fajr Salaah. Zaynab thought to herself that since Fatima was from a country like America, where will she ever perform Salaah. "So, I will sleep till late without waking up."

The next morning, Zaynab's father woke up the whole family for Fajr Salaah. But Zaynab carried on sleeping. However, her friend Fatima woke up and performed her Fajr Salaah. She even recited some Quran but Zaynab slept on and after a little while her mother came to wake her up.

Fatima asked Zaynab: "Why did you not wake up for Salaah?"

Zaynab replied: "Why, what do you get out of reading Salaah?"

Fatima said: "Have you not read in the books and did you not hear your mother saying last night that Salaah is a pillar of Islaam? Salaah is obligatory upon us and it is of utmost importance that we fulfil this obligation. Salaah is compulsory on both, males and females. It becomes obligatory at the age of ten. Rasulullaah ρ said: "Salaah will be the first thing we will be questioned about on the day of Qiyaamah."

Zaynab listened attentively to what Fatima was saying. She told her that: "Perform Salaah just for one day and you will see how the rest of the day goes smoothly. Allaah Ta'ala, through the blessings of Salaah will make your work easy for you."

Zaynab was ashamed and she made a firm resolution, that as from today she will perform all her Salaahs and not miss even one.

Zaynab was surprised and curiously asked Fatima: "O Fatima! How is it possible that you living in America know so much about Islaam?"

"I lived all my life in a Muslim country. Yet, I do not know so much."

Fatima came close to Zaynab and then hugged her.

MORAL: Just imagine how many blessings and bounties of Allaah Taala we over look. For our own good, Allaah Ta'ala has made certain worship obligatory upon us, which we must fulfil. We should fulfil these with eagerness and happiness.

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## 10. EQUAL IN TRUSTWORTHINESS

There were two pious men living in the city. The one bought a piece of land from the other. The buyer dug the ground and found gold in a water bucket. The buyer thought to himself: "I do not have any right in this gold, because I only bought the land. I did not buy the water bucket."

So, he went to the seller and explained to him what happened. "I only bought the land from you. I did not buy the gold that came out from the land. Hence, here is the gold. It is yours. Take it!"

The seller was also a very trustworthy person. He said: "I did not bury this gold in the ground. Therefore, the land and what ever you find from it all belongs to you. I will not take this gold from you."

But the buyer was not happy to keep the gold. He went to a third person and asked him to make a decision. The third person asked both of them: "do any of you have any children?"

The buyer said: "I have a son."

And the seller said: "I have a daughter."

The person, who was to make the final decision said: "I think the best is that both of you should get your children married to one another, and then give them both, the gold."

The men were happy at the decision and they married their son and daughter to one another. They distributed the gold to both of them. Both the men were as equal as the other in trustworthiness.

MORAL: We must always make it a habit of being trustworthy. Be it at school or even at home. If we cheat others, then they will not consider us as good.

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## 11. THE BENEFIT OF TELLING THE TRUTH

Nazeer was working in a motor workshop. One day his boss told him harshly… "Nazeer! How many times must I tell you to do your work? Whenever I see you I find you sitting and wasting your time. The next time I see you sitting and wasting away your time I will give you two slaps. And, then fire you! Now go away from here."

"You see that customer standing over there! Go and see to him, what he wants. Whatever the problem may be – big or small – Just tell him that it is a long job and it will take one or two days."

That night as he was falling asleep, he started thinking to himself that: "Is my future going to be like this, telling lies all the time?" telling lies, which our Beloved Prophet Mohammed ρ warned us against. As he was thinking about this, he fell asleep.

Nazeer's name was first Nazeer Ahmed. When his parents were still alive, he was learning at school. What actually happened was, one day his parents were driving somewhere and they met up in an accident. A truck drove into them and they passed away on the spot. Nazeer, then had to leave school to earn a living. So, he started working as a motor mechanic. Often he would think: "Now, I will never be able to study."

When his parents were alive, they were hopeful that one day he would become a police officer and make them proud. But unfortunately for Nazeer, now he had to work and struggle. Whenever, the school children passed by the workshop in their clean uniforms, on their way to school, Nazeer would look at them wishing that he could also go to school. His eyes would fill up with tears as he stared at them. His boss sees him doing this and becomes angry and starts shouting at him.

"Nazeer! Stop day-dreaming! Come on! Finish up with what you were doing …"

"And, when that man comes - of the car - lie to him and give him a long list of all the work that you had done on his car. We must make some money out of him." The mean boss shouted.

"Nazeer! What are you thinking? Come on! Whenever I see you, you are thinking hard." His boss grumbled on the other side.

Nazeer made a firm resolution to himself, that he will never tell lies.

The boss called out: “Nazeer! The customer is here to fetch his car. Before you have your meals, go and speak to him and tell him all that I told you.”

Nazeer went off to the customer. The customer asked, whilst examining his car: “So is my car fixed?”

“Yes sir! Nazeer replied politely.

The customer sighed in relief: “I thought it was going to be a big job!”
“Actually not,” Nazeer replied. “I also thought so initially, but it just needed some adjustments at the brakes. Other than that, everything seems to be fine.”

The boss was looking at him with sharp eyes. But, Nazeer told the truth. The customer was very much impressed at Nazeer’s truthfulness. He said: “Nazeer! You seem to be a very trustworthy person. Here! Take this extra tip for you.” He pulled out some notes from his pocket.

Nazeer said hesitantly: “No, no, do not worry Sir! It’s fine!”

The customer inquired: “Ok then, Nazeer! You are still young. Do you go to school?”

“No,” replied Nazeer emotionally, with tears filling his eyes. “Since my parents passed away in the tragic accident, I had to leave school and start working.”

The customer looked at him with pity and offered him to go with him. Nazeer went to his boss and asked for permission to go along with the customer. The boss granted him permission.

The customer arranged for Nazeer’s schooling and living expenses. Nazeer was happy at last. He was now, even more firm in his resolution. The fruits of telling the truth were clear.

MORAL: No matter how much of lies others tell, we must never leave truthfulness. Allaah SWT is always pleased with the one who tells the truth. The truthful child grows up to be successful and becomes the coolness of his/her parent’s eyes.

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## 12. THE BLESSINGS OF TELLING THE TRUTH

Hasan Basri RA was a very pious man. Hajjaaj bin Yusuf, the governor at that time, oppressed him very much. One day he came out to look for him. Hasan Basri RA heard that Hajjaj wants to harm him. So, he quickly ran away to his friend's house, Habib Ajmi, who was also a pious man. Hajjaaj came to Habib Ajmi and asked him: "Where is Hasan Basri? Have you seen him?"

Habib replied: "Hasan is hiding in my house."

Hajjaaj went into Habib's house and found no one. He returned and shouted: "Why do you tell lies?" Hasan Basri is not inside.

Habib replied: "I take an oath in Allaah's name, that I am not telling a lie. He is inside."

Hajjaaj went inside again and found no one. He did this several times. Eventually, he got tired and went away. Hasan Basri came out and remarked: "O Habib! Allaah saved me because of you."

Habib replied: "No, Hasan! It was not because of me. It was the blessing of my telling the truth that saved you. Had I told a lie, both of us would have been in trouble."

MORAL: If we are in any type of difficulty, then we must always trust in Allaah and tell the truth. By telling the truth, all our difficulties become easy. When our friends fall into trouble, and if they seek help, then always help them out.

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## 13. THE TRUSTWORTHY GIRL

The second Khalifa Umar τ was a great ruler. There was no King that could have ever claimed to be equal to him. He was a simple person. He lived in a very simple house and his clothing was also simple. It had patches and his shoes were torn up.

Whenever he got tired, he would go to the Masjid and relax in one corner. He had a servant whose name was Aslam. Umar τ took Aslam with him wherever he went. He often visited the neighbourhood and helped the poor and needy.

One night, as he was walking through the alleys of Madinahh, he heard the voice of a woman. She was telling her daughter: "O my daughter! Take the milk and mix it with some water."

Umar τ heard this and stopped right there. The girl replied to her mother: "O Mother! Have you not heard the command of the 'leader of the believers' (Umar τ)? He has prohibited anyone from mixing water with milk."

Her mother replied: "O my child! Do not make stories! Just do as I say. Mix the milk with water as there is no one here to see what you are doing."

The girl replied: "O mother! But, Allaah is here. He is watching over us all the time. If we are not trustworthy, then He would become angry at us. And, this would also be counted as disobedience to His commandments."

Umar τ was moved by these words of the girl. He told his servant, Aslam, to remember the house where this incident happened. Early in the morning, he called his servant and they both went along to the house of the woman. They learnt that the woman was a widow and the girl was her daughter.

Umar τ asked the mother for her daughter's hand in marriage to his son. The girl accepted and was now the wife of the Khalifa's son.

Later, the famous Umayyad Khalifa, Umar Bin Abdul Aziz RA, was the grandson of this trustworthy lady. He too was a trustworthy and just ruler, who was known as the 'Second Umar.'

MORAL: We must also help the poor and needy, Just as Umar τ helped the poor and needy. Allaah is present everywhere and at all times. Therefore, whether there is someone looking at us or not, we must always be trustworthy and obedient. And, live simply.

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## 14. A GREAT FATHER AND A GREAT SON

Abdullaah Bin Mubaarak τ's father was a slave. He worked in his master's garden. One day his master came into the garden and said: "Son! Bring me a pomegranate." Mubaarak plucked a pomegranate and gave it to his master. The master tasted it and found it to be bitter. His forehead was sweating due to the bitter taste. He said: "I asked for a sweet pomegranate but you have brought me a bitter one." Mubarak went to another tree and plucked another pomegranate. The master tasted it and said: "This one is also bitter." he became angry at him and said: "I have asked you for a sweet pomegranate, but every time you bring me a bitter one."

Mubarak went for a third time and plucked another pomegranate from another tree. But this time too it was bitter.

His master became very angry and said: "You still do not know how to pluck a sweet pomegranate!!!"

Mubarak answered: "One can only determine the sweetness of a fruit after one tastes it. I have never eaten a single pomegranate from this garden. That is why I do not know its taste."

His master asked: "And why is it so?"

He replied: "Because, O Master! You have not given me permission to take anything from the garden. I cannot eat any fruit from this garden without your permission."

The master was really touched by this remark of Mubaarak. His trustworthiness had such an effect on his master that he married his daughter to Mubaarak. And from this marriage Abdullaah Bin Mubaarak was born, who was a great scholar of his time.

MORAL: We should not take anything without asking for permission. Allaah Ta'ala is always watching over us. When we inculcate (develop) such habits from childhood, then we will grow up having such great habits.

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## 15. THE TRUTHFUL SHEPHERD

One day, Abdullaah Bin Umar τ went with his friends on a picnic to a distant place out of Madinahh. They laid out their picnic basket. There was a shepherd looking after some animals. The shepherd greeted them. Abdullaah Bin Umar τ replied to the greeting and invited him to join them for lunch. The Sheppard remarked: “I am fasting.”

Abdullaah τ gasped: “What? You are fasting! In such hot weather and even whilst grazing the sheep?”

Abdullaah τ asked: “Will you not sell us these animals? We will pay cash for them and we will also give you some food to eat so that you may break your fast later.”

The shepherd said: “Sir! “These animals are not mine. They belong to my master. I cannot sell them without my master’s consent.”

Abdullaah τ tested him saying: “But your master will not come to know, if you sold these animals to us!!!”

The shepherd looked up towards the sky pointing his finger and said: “Where is Allaah? Where is Allaah!!!” meaning that, “Allaah is always watching over me.”

Saying this, he took his animals and went away.

Abdullaah τ was really touched by the trustworthiness of the shepherd, that he kept repeating the words of the shepherd. When he returned to Madinahh, he bought all the animals along with the shepherd and freed him. He then gave all the animals as a gift to the shepherd.

MORAL: We must not cheat on anyone. Rasulullaah ρ said: “To betray someone’s trust is a sign of a hypocrite.”

If we are trustworthy, then Allaah Taala will shower us with many of His blessings, just as He had showered upon the shepherd.

If someone gives us something to keep we should keep it safely and look after it because the other person trusts us.

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## 16. THE FERVOUR OF IMAAN

When Rasulullaah ρ first invited the people of Makkah to Islaam, and prohibited them from worshiping idols, then the same people, who praised him once, became his staunch enemies. They started to cause difficulties and hardships to him and his companions. So much so that in the thirteenth year, Rasulullaah ρ along with his companions migrated from Makkah to Madinahh, which was about 300 miles away. Many people had already accepted Islaam there. They promised to protect and help Rasulullaah ρ.

Meanwhile, the disbelievers of Makkah were not happy at this development. They wanted to cause difficulties to the Muslims, even in Madinah. They fought many battles in Madinah against the Muslims, but were unsuccessful every time.

The first battle that took place was the battle of Badr. The disbelievers were 1000 in number and they had the best of weapons. They had 100 horses. On the other hand, the Muslims were only 313 in number. They were ill-equipped, and they also have just a few horses. Not withstanding this, the Muslims fought the enemy that was triple their size. The leader of the disbelievers, Abu Jahl, kept cheering his people to fight bravely against the Muslims.

Rasulullaah ρ's companion Abdur Rahman Bin Auf τ narrates: "The battle was as at its peak and I was standing in the middle of the battlefield. All of a sudden, Two Ansari youth came to stand next to me." The one asked: "Uncle! Where is Abu Jahl?"

I replied: "Son! What do you want with Abu Jahl?"

He said: "I heard that he troubles our Beloved Nabi, Rasulullaah ρ very much. I take an oath that if I find him, I will certainly kill him!"

The other youth also told me the same. These two youngsters made a firm resolution to kill Abu Jahl. They were Muaz and Muawwiz. Both were cousins. Their father's

were Haarith Bin Rifa'ah, who were highly respected among the tribe of Banu Najjar. He passed away before the coming of Islaam. However, their mother had accepted Islaam. She became a companion of Rasulullaah ρ, and brought up the two youngsters firm on Islaam.  Her name was Afrau.

Abdur Rahman Bin Auf τ says: "I was truly impressed at the faith of these two youngsters." I pointed out to them where Abu Jahl was. He was straightening the rows of his soldiers. The two youngsters quickly grabbed their swords and rushed towards him. They jumped on him and attacked him severely, dropping him to the ground. Abu Jahl's son, Ikramah, struck his sword at Muaz's arm leaving a piece of flash hanging from his arm. He placed his foot on his arm and ripped off that piece of flesh.

The two youngsters came in the presence of Rasulullaah ρ, and told him about their attack on Abu Jahl. Rasulullaah ρ asked them to show him their swords. They drew out their bloody-swords and Rasulullaah ρ was convinced. After a short while, Abdullah Bin Masood τ brought Abu Jahl's head to Rasulullaah ρ.

MORAL: Rasulullaah ρ underwent and experienced many difficulties just for our sake. Therefore, we owe our love to Rasulullaah ρ, more than our lives.

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## 17. AN HONOURABLE NAME

King Naasirudeen Mahmood had a friend whose name was Muhammad. He always called him by his name, Muhammad. One day, unusually he called his friend by another name, Taajudeen. Muhammad responded and made himself present in the King's court. However, he stayed away for the next three days. The King called for Muhammad and asked him why was he absent for three days?

He replied: "O King! "You always call me by my name, Mohammed. But, that particular day you did not. I thought to myself that there must be something wrong! Why is it that the King has called me by another name? Therefore, I stayed away for the three days."

King Naasirudeen remarked: "By Allaah! I did not have any ill-feelings in my heart about you. But, the reason I called you by another name on that day, was because I did not have Wudhu. And, I felt it incorrect to call you by the name, Muhammad. I felt it disrespectful."

MORAL: Respect demands from us that we must not take the name, Muhammad without Wudhu. When we consider the little issues in life, then Allaah Taala will shower us with His blessings. We must always respect our books and teachers. This way we will become good and practical.

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## 18. RESPECT FOR THE AHADEETH

Whatever our Beloved Nabi, Rasulullaah ρ said or did, is known as Sunnah. We adorn ourselves by practicing on the Sunnah and we attain success in this world. Our pious predecessors have always respected the Hadith (traditions) of Rasulullaah ρ. Whenever they taught or heard a Hadith from someone, they paid full attention. They did not allow worldly things to distract them.

Maalik Bin Anas τ was a great scholar of the 2nd century. He lived in Madinah and every day he conducted Hadith lessons in Masjidun Nabawi. Allaah Taala had granted him a high status. Students from far and wide would come and listen to his Ahadeeth Lessons.

One day, he was teaching his students and all of a sudden a harmful insect came onto his clothing. The insect stung him on his back. It was very painful. But, Maalik Bin Anas τ did not even move a single inch. He continued teaching the Ahadeeth lesson. The insect-bite was so severe that his face changed colour. He still remained engrossed in teaching the Hadith lesson without saying anything.

When the lesson finished, his students noticed that something was wrong. He told them to see what was it that was biting him? They lifted his cloth and found a poisonous insect biting him. They took the insect out and killed it. The students were really startled at the incident.

They said to their teacher: “O teacher! “Why did you not tell us earlier about the insect? We could have killed it then?”

Maalik Bin Anas τ replied: “It was due to the respect of the Hadith, I did not feel it appropriate to complain about the pain.”

MORAL: The books and pens, with which we learn at school, must be respected at all times. Even the pencil that we write with must not be disrespected. The amount of respect we show to the Ahadeeth will determine our knowledge. We must not even stretch out our legs towards the tools of knowledge. If we see a piece of paper on the road, then we must pick it up and place it on a higher place.

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## 19. THE LAST STRAW

Akhtar Sherani was a famous Urdu poet, who had a habit of drinking liquor. One day, a few intelligent non-Muslim students debated with him at a hotel in Lahore. Akhtar, on that day was intoxicated. His body was shaking and he could not even pronounce his words correctly. Besides three poets, he considered himself the best of poets. The three poets were: Abul Fadhl; Asadullah Khan Ghalib; and Abul Kalaam Azad.

Theses communist non-students began debating about other poets who were better than him. The likes of Fayz, Sardaar Jafary, Saahir Ludhyaanwy, Zaheer Kashmiri and Ahmed Nadeem Qasmi. He replied: “The one was just a ‘simple Nazam singer’, whilst the other was his student,” and so on.

The students saw that Akhtar was against ‘progressive thinking’. So they decided to change the subject. They asked him: “Ok then, tell us about your Nabi. What are your thoughts regarding him?”

Akhtar’s eyes turned red in anger. He remarked: “What are you babbling about? The debate is on poets, not Ambiyaa.”

One student got up and said: “Well then! What about Plato, who wrote on literature? What are your thoughts on his writings? Also, Aristotle; Saqraat (philosophers) etc?”

Akhtar, proudly responded: “If they were alive today, they would have sat in my gatherings and leant a thing or two from me.” The students all burst out laughing.

One arrogant student then got up and questioned mockingly: “Then tell us about your Nabi Muhammad.”

Akhtar was moved again at such a remark. Still in the state of intoxication, he became very angry with his eyes bloodshot-red and his body trembling of rage. Like someone lit a fire in him. He picked up a glass, hit it on his head and angrily exclaimed: “Rascals! You ask me such a question? A sinner like me? Do you want to play fools with me?”

He started crying; his hiccups stopped; and he was speechless for a moment. He shouted at them: “How dare you ask me such a question, whilst I am in this state? You behave bravely! Disrespectful! Rude! Lunatics! By the name of Muhammad Rasulullaah ρ, I order you to revoke this disgusting question at once! You are being offensive!”

The students were awestruck by his reaction and dumfounded at his retort. He ordered them to move away from there and he got up and left. All night he was crying.

He said: “These people have become so brave! They actually seized my ‘last straw.’ I was in a state of intoxication, yet they tried to change my faith.”

MORAL: Respect all the Ambiyaa with your heart and life. Whoever tries to humiliate any Nabi, stop that person immediately. So, that he must not do it again. And, do not mock at anyone.

## 20. THE FORTUNATE YOUNG BOY

Talha Bin Barra τ was a resident of Madinah. He was a pious and intelligent young boy. He became a Muslim even before Rasulullaah ρ came to Madinah. But his father, unfortunately remained steadfast on the religion of his forefathers. When Rasulullaah ρ migrated from Makkah to Madinah, he was very happy.

One day, he came in the presence of Rasulullaah ρ. He was touched by seeing the blessed face of Rasulullaah ρ. He held his hands firmly onto Rasulullaah ρ and said: “O Nabi of Allaah! Whatever you order me I will act upon it right away.”

Rasulullaah ρ smiled at his enthusiasm and jokingly told him: “O Talha! Go and kill your father.”

Talha said: “O Messenger of Allaah! I will do just that.” Saying this he strode towards his home.

Rasulullaah ρ called out to him: “Come back! Allaah did not send me to break off blood relations.”

This was his first test that Talha τ had passed. From then on he often stayed in the service of Rasulullaah ρ. After some time, he fell ill. He could not come to Rasulullaah ρ anymore. Rasulullaah ρ came to know about his illness. So, he went to

visit Talha at his house. Upon seeing his condition Rasulullaah ρ realized that his time was near. Upon returning, Rasulullaah ρ told his household: "Since there is no hope for Talha, please let me know when he passes away. I wish to perform his funeral prayer."

Then one night, he reached his final moments. Talha told his family: "When I die, then bury me quickly so that I may meet my Rabb. And, do not call the Nabi. As I do not want Rasulullaah ρ put into difficulty in any way by coming so far to my Janaazah."

As per his instructions, his family buried him as soon as he passed away. In the morning Rasulullaah ρ was told of Talha's death. Rasulullaah ρ along with his companions went to the grave of Talha, lifted his hands in prayer and read for him. "O Allaah! Be pleased with Talha and meet him in a way that you are delighted with him."

MORAL: Talha τ loved Rasulullaah ρ very much. So much so that he did not want to cause any type of difficulty for him. In return, Rasulullaah ρ made such a wonderful Dua for him.

It is indeed a great sign to love Rasulullaah ρ. To practice on his way of life is an expression of ones love for him.

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## 21. A VISIT TO UMMU AYMAN τ

There was a famous female companion, Ummu Ayman τ. Her actual name was Barkat Bint Tha'labah. Since she was the one who brought up Rasulullaah ρ in his early childhood, he would often visit her.

After the demise of Rasulullaah ρ, Abu Bakar τ one day told Umar τ: "Come let us go and visit her." When they both arrived at her house she started crying. They asked her: "Why are you crying? Allaah has wished for the best for Rasulullaah ρ ?"

She remarked: "I am not crying because Rasulullaah ρ passed away. But I am crying because the revelation of Allaah from the heavens has stopped coming." Upon hearing this, they both too began to cry.

MORAL: The companions of Rasulullaah ρ loved him very much. Whenever they remembered him they became emotional. We too must love our Rasulullaah ρ from the bottom of our hearts.

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## 22. TRUE JOY

“Assalamu Alykum!”

Maria greeted loudly. She was very happy today and, why not? She had completed the memorization of the Noble Quran. She told her brother Usaamah, not to tell anyone about her surprise. She was going to break the good news to her father herself. And, remind him about his promise to take them for Umrah.

But as she entered the lounge she was disappointed to see her father watching television. He did not even pay attention to her greeting. She went straight to her bedroom. The whole night she was restless. She kept turning from left to right.

Maria had a close friend whose name was Hafsa. They would often speak to one another about what friends talk about. Hafsa knew that when Maria completes memorising the Quran, her father was going to take them for Umrah.

A few days before when they were talking to one another, Hafsa told Maria: “Maria! Your father doesn’t even grow his beard. How will you be going for Umrah like that?

With what face will your father present himself in front of the grave of Rasulullaah ρ ?"

Maria replied: "So what is wrong if my father does not have a beard? We are Muslims; we read Salaah; we read the Noble Quran?

"Look Maria! There is nothing to become angry about? Nowadays, we are merely Muslims by name. The beard is the Sunnah of our Beloved Rasulullaah ρ. And, to shave off the beard is sinful. Imagine! How much of difficulty Rasulullaah ρ goes through when people come in front of his grave clean shaven? Allaah Taala has beautified a man's face with a beard."

Hafsa's talk had a great impact on Maria. Now when she sees her father, she becomes embarrassed. But how must she tell this to her father?

She had an idea. The next morning she woke up for Fajr. And, she did not sleep after that as she does everyday. It was the day of Jummuah. She went to sit in the dining room and waited. As soon as she saw their servant taking the warm water with the shaving-mug, she ran quickly into the kitchen. And, she took a plastic packet. She brought this to her father who was shaving his beard at the washing basin.

"Father! I brought this for you."

Her father turned around in surprise and said: "Child! What must I do with this?"

"Father! It's for your hair. Whenever you shave, put your hair into this, because the beard is the Sunnah of Rasulullaah ρ and we are Muslims, we must respect our hair. It must not go into the drain. The drain is impure." She said this and went away.

A few days later as Maria was preparing to go to school, her father came to her bedroom and sat next to her. He said: "Child! Next week we will be going for Umrah. I have given up my bad habits. I even threw away the television. And, besides I am now growing my beard."

More than the good news of going for Umrah, Maria was even happier to see her father's long beard. She jumped on her father's lap and gave him a big hug.

"Father! Today, I will tell my friend Hafsa, that now my father acts upon the Sunnah. And he is becoming a good Muslim."

Father was very pleased to see his little daughter's happy face.

MORAL: Rasulullaah ρ loved us very much. So much so that he made Dua for us throughout the night. He underwent difficulties and hardships, only for our sake. We are part of his Ummah. Hence, we should also love Rasulullaah ρ. And, the sign of his love is to act upon all of his Sunnahs.

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## 23. THE GAURANTEE OF ALLAAH

There was a man from the Bani Israel. He wanted a loan of 1000 gold coins from another person. That person told him: “I will only give you the loan if you provide a witness.” The man said: “I make Allaah Ta’ala my witness.” The person said: “OK! Then bring me a guarantor. So that if you do not repay me the loan that your guarantor will repay it.” The man said: “Allaah Taala is my guarantor.”

Finally, the person gave him the loan, and the man promised to pay back the loan after a certain time.

The man took the loan and went off to a faraway place, to another country, overseas. He fulfilled his tasks there, and now it was time for him to return home. However, he could not find a return ship before the due date, for repaying the loan. He was worried. That if he does not return by the due date, then he will be breaking his promise and Allaah Ta’ala would become angry with him.

After much thought, he came up with an idea. He took a big piece of wood, made a hole in it and placed the thousand gold coins therein. He wrote a small note saying

that this is the loan which he is repaying and that he is unable to find a return-ship to be back home on time. Thereafter, he fastened the wood properly and threw it into the ocean, placing his trust in Allaah Ta'ala and hoping that the gold coins would reach its owner safely.

He prayed to Allaah Ta'ala thus: "O Allaah! You know well that I have made You my witness and guarantor to my loan transaction. Now, I cannot make it back home on time. I therefore hand over this trust to You O Allaah! And, I ask You to let this wood reach the person safely."

He then returned to the place where he was staying.

On the other side of the ocean, the person who he took the loan from was once walking on the seaside, looking at all the ships docking in. And, all of a sudden he saw the piece of wood washed out from the sea. He thought to himself that it was a nice piece of wood he could use to burn his fire. So, he picked it up and took it with him home. Just as he was about to light up his fire, he noticed a small note attached to it. He opened it and to his amazement it was addressed to him from the man that took the loan. He read the note and then found the gold coins hidden in the wood.

After a few days, the first man from overseas, mounted a ship and returned home. As soon as he returned, he rushed to his friend's house and apologised for the delay. He offered him another 1000 gold coins. But, his friend told him all that had happened.

MORAL: Rasulullaah ρ said: "He who takes a loan from someone and makes an intention of repaying it, then Allaah Ta'ala makes it easy for him to repay it. And, he who takes a loan with the intention of not repaying it, Allaah Ta'ala will fulfil his intention, and he will not be able to pay back the loan."

Remember! He who places his trust in Allaah Taala and fulfils the rights of people, Allaah Ta'ala makes it easy for him to do so. Therefore, we should not abuse anyone's rights and if we take anything from anyone, then we must return it to them.

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## 24. GOOD MANNERS

There was a pious person whose face shone from the Noor of Allaah Ta'ala. He once went to a town and invited the people towards justice and good deeds. He warned them against oppression and evil deeds. Indeed, there was much truth in his words.

But, the people of the town were ignorant and evil. They did not listen to him. They mocked at him and chased him out of their town. They even sent the street urchins after him throwing stones at him. His whole body was bleeding. Even his shoes work clogged with the blood.

He had a servant with him who told him: "Why do you not pray to Allaah Ta'ala to destroy them?" But the pious person replied: "Allaah Taala has not sent me to curse people."

The angels even came down to him and said: "If you wish, we will destroy this whole down with the mountains that surround it." But, the pious person remarked: "If these people do not listen, then perhaps their children would some day believe and accept Islaam. And, through their efforts Islaam would spread far and wide."

MORAL: This is the story of our Beloved Nabi Rasulullaah ρ. His servant was none other than Jibraeel υ. And the people who ill-treated him were the people of Taif. Rasulullaah ρ meant well for everyone, even his enemies. We must follow his way too. And, wish well for others.

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## 25. THE UNUSUAL HOST

Our Beloved Nabi Rasulullaah ρ was once sitting with some of his companions. The evening was approaching and it was becoming dark, suddenly a person who was in some sort of difficulty appeared. He came in the presence of Rasulullaah ρ and said: "O Messenger of Allaah! I am a traveller and I do not have a place in Madinah to stay nor do I have food to eat. Please help me!"

Rasulullaah ρ asked his wives if there was any food at home. They replied: "No, there is no food available." Rasulullaah ρ then looked at his companions and asked them: "Is there anyone amongst you who will take this traveller with you?" The companions remained silent. However, a handsome and young companion stood up and said: "O Rasulullaah! I will take the guest home." Saying this, the young Sahabi went to his house and informed his wife about the guest. She said: "But there's only a little food left for the children, besides that, there is nothing."

The young Sahabi said: "Its fine! Put the children off to sleep and bring the food for the guest." When the food was brought in front of the guest, he told his wife to make

as if she was fixing the lamp and whilst doing that she must put off the lamp. In that way, the guest will eat thinking that they were eating with him.

The guest ate and the Sahabi along with his wife and children slept hungry that night.

The next morning, the Sahabi came in the presence of Rasulullaah ρ. Rasulullaah ρ was reciting the following verse: “They are such people who prefer others over them, even though they are in difficulty.” Meaning, that these were such good people, they remained hungry themselves and gave their food to their guests.

Rasulullaah ρ looked at this Sahabi and said: “Allaah Taala has loved your action very much.”

You must be wondering who these two young Sahabis were, regarding whom Allaah Ta’ala spoke about their unusual hospitality. The young Sahabi was Abu Talha Zayd τ and his wife was Ummu Sulaym τ. Both of them were Sahabas living in Madinah.

A Sahabi is he who saw Rasulullaah ρ in his lifetime and who brought faith in him. A Sahabiyah is that lady who saw Rasulullaah ρ and brought faith in him, and they died in the state of Iman.

MORAL: Guests are the mercy of Allaah Taala. We must always welcome our guests and honour them. It must not be such that when we see guests coming we become irritated. We must serve them wholeheartedly and earn the pleasure of Allaah Taala.

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## 26. DISTRIBUTING WITH JUSTICE

There were two Bedouins travelling in Arabia. The one had five sandwiches and the other had three sandwiches. They stopped in the middle of their journey and started eating. Meanwhile, a person was passing by whom they invited to join them. All three of them shared the eight sandwiches amongst themselves. As a token of appreciation, the third person who they invited gave them eight gold coins. The one who had five sandwiches took five gold coins and gave the one who had three sandwiches, three of the gold coins.

However, the one who had three sandwiches was not happy with the three gold coins. He started arguing with the other one, that we ought to distribute these gold coins equally amongst ourselves.

The Khalifa of the time was Ali τ. They came to Ali τ and asked for justice. Ali τ told the one who had three sandwiches to take the three gold coins and be happy with it. He remarked: “No! O Ali! Do justice, and fulfil my rights.”

Ali τ said: “Ok then, since you seek justice, the truth of the matter is that you should only be having one gold coin. And, your companion should have the remaining seven.” He gasped: “O Ali! Now, what kind of justice is that?”

Ali τ explained: “Both of you had a total of eight sandwiches. If you divide the eight sandwiches into three, then you will get 24 pieces. Now take for instance, all of you ate an equal amount of pieces. Your companion’s five sandwiches were equivalent to fifteen pieces. He ate eight pieces and the guest ate seven. Then from your three pieces, which was equivalent to fifteen. You ate eight and the guest ate one. For this reason seven of the gold coins must go to your companion and one must go to you. The decision was made and the eight gold coins were distributed in this way.” The person took his one gold coin and went away.

MORAL: We must abstain from fighting with one another. Do not be jealous of your friend. Ali τ was a very intelligent person. We must also think intelligently. When resolving issues between people then we must resolve with justice, so that no one’s right is taken away.

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## 27. THE OWL’S JUSTICE

There was an owl living in the jungle. The whole day it sat on a tree with its eyes closed. All the animals of the jungle thought the owl was very wise, because it sat the entire day thinking and not making a single move.

One day an elephant and a monkey came to the owl and said: “O intelligent one! We have an issue to resolve. You be the judge in our matter.”

The owl said: “Fine! What is the matter?”

The monkey spoke first. It said: “My argument is that, I believe ‘intelligence’ is better than strength. But, the elephant believes that ‘strength’ is better then intelligence.”

The owl closed its eyes and pondered, after much thought the owl said: “Can you see that apple tree over there? Go! Both of you and bring me some apples.”

The monkey and the elephant both went towards the apple tree. But there was a river in between. So the elephant remarked: “You see! Strength is better. Had it not being for my strength and size, you would not be able to cross the river.” The monkey remained silent and jumped on the elephant’s back. They both crossed the river and went onto the other side. When they reached the apple tree, the elephant attempted to bring down the apples. But it was too high. The elephant tried again with its long trunk, but in vain. The apples were very high up in the tree.

The monkey started laughing and said: “Did I not tell you that intelligence is better than strength. You are so huge and strong, yet you cannot get even a single apple.”

Saying this, the monkey leaped onto the tree and started picking the apples. Then both of them carried the apples and returned to the owl. The Owl asked them: “Now tell me! Which is better? Strength or intelligence?”

It said: “Both are important. The monkey could not have crossed the river without the help of the elephant and the elephant could not get the apples without the help of the monkey.”

MORAL: If you are more intelligent than your friends, then do not boast in front of them, as they could be stronger than you. And, if you are stronger than your friends then do not boast about your strength to them, as they could outdo you in some aspect of life.

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## 28. BLESSED PEOPLE

Ibnu Hajar τ writes about Abdullah Bin Huthaafah τ:

Once upon a time during the reign of the second Khalifa, Umar τ. The Romans captured Abdullah Bin Huthaafah τ along with a few Sahabas. The Roman King told them that if they become Christians and leave Islaam, then he would make them part of his government. However, Abdullah Bin Huthaafah τ refused to accept Christianity. The King ordered him to be tied up in chains and commanded the soldiers to pierce him with arrows. This did not change anything with Abdullah Bin Huthaafah τ.

The King saw that there was no sign of fear on his face. So, he ordered a huge bowl of boiling water be brought and Abdullah Bin Huthaafah τ be thrown in it. As the soldiers were taking Abdullah Bin Huthaafah τ towards the boiling water, he started to cry. The King asked him: “Now, why are you crying?”

Abdullah Bin Huthaafah τ replied: “I am not crying out of fear. But, I am crying because I only have one life. I wish I had 100 lives and each of my lives were taken this way. Then, I would present myself in front of my Rabb saying that I sacrificed all of my lives in this way.”

The King was really moved by this statement. He asked Abdullah Bin Huthaafah τ: “Would you then kiss me on my forehead? I will let you go.”

Abdullah Bin Huthaafah τ replied: “If I kiss you on your forehead, then will you free all the prisoners?”

The King replied: “Yes.”

Abdullah Bin Huthaafah τ kissed the King on his forehead, and the King let them all free.

This news reached Umar τ. He approached Abdullah Bin Huthaafah τ and kissed Abdullah Bin Huthaafah τ on his forehead.

MORAL: Abdullah Bin Huthaafah τ had true faith in Allaah Ta’ala and His Messenger Rasulullaah ρ. Nothing could change his faith. He considered the betterment for the Muslims. Let us also consider the betterment of our Muslim brothers and sisters.

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## 29. THE STORY OF THE NEKLACE

Ibnu Jauzi τ’s grandson, Abul Muthaffar writes:

Ibnu Aqeel τ wrote about himself: “One day after I had made Tawaaf of the Kabah, I saw a pearl necklace lying on the floor. It had a red string of diamonds. I picked it up.”

After a little while, I found that there was a blind old man who was looking for his necklace. He was saying loudly that he will give One Hundred gold coins to the one who brings him his necklace. So I returned the necklace to the old man. He offered to give the gold coins, but I refused to take it. Thereafter, I travelled to Syria, until I

reached Baytul Muqaddas. I wanted to go to Baghdad from there but my travelling goods got finished.

Now, I was in total poverty and hunger. I was completely run down by the cold and no-food. I went to a Masjid in 'Halb'. The people of the Masjid made me go forward to lead the Salaah. After Salaah they gave me some food to eat. And, it was also nearing the month of Ramadhaan. The people told me that their Imam had passed away. So, they requested me to be their Imam just for the month. I gladly accepted.

The people also told me about their Imam's daughter, with whom they got me married. After one year Allaah Ta'ala granted us a son. However, after the birth of our son, my wife fell ill.

One day, as I was sitting by her, deep in thought. I saw that she was wearing the same necklace, which I had found. I told her the whole story of the necklace. She started to cry and remarked: "By Allaah! Are you the same person?" I replied: "Yes." She said: "My father told me all about you. That he was in Haj and he lost his necklace. Then you found it for him. From that day onwards, he always prayed to Allaah, that: "O Allaah! Marry my daughter to such a person who has the great qualities of the person who found my necklace for me."

"Look at how Allaah Ta'ala has accepted my father's Dua, and in what way."

Not long after that, my wife passed away. I inherited the necklace from her and returned to Baghdad."

MORAL: When the heart is clean and pure, and when one obeys the commandments of Allaah Ta'ala, then no matter what difficulty one experiences, Allaah Ta'ala makes it easy for one. Hence, we must do everything, only for the pleasure of Allaah Ta'ala.

We must not use or take someone's things without their consent.

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## 30. GHAAZY'S EXCELLENT CONDUCT

Maulana Ghaazy Ahmed was born in a Hindu household. He had accepted Islaam as early as at the age of thirteen. His whole family were Hindus. He experienced many difficulties. He wrote a book on how he accepted Islaam, which is now also translated into many languages. He writes about the time when the Hindus and Muslims in India were being separated in the year 1947. He says:

"The people were moving to the camp… My aunt came to me and left a small parcel wrapped up in cloth. She told me that it was some money she was leaving in my trust:

"If we survive, then we will take the money back from you. But if we are killed, then you may have the money. It would be useful for you."

I said: “O aunt! May Allaah Taala keep you safe. I am not in need of the money.”

Anyway, I took it from her and kept the parcel at Sufi Jaan Muhammad’s house. Out of curiosity, one day I went to Sufi Jaan Muhammad and asked him to just peek into the parcel and see what was wrapped up in it. He opened it and to our amazement we found about 2 seer gold and 80 pounds of silver. We wrapped it up again and kept it away safely.

Then, finally the day arrived when we had to move from our camp. It was almost evening, and an announcement was made that we will be moved the next day, early in the morning from Chikraal to India, by a special train. The thought of my aunt’s parcel crossed my mind but Sufi Jaan was not at home. So, I placed my trust in Allaah Taala and hurriedly left for Chikraal on my bicycle. The sun was already setting and the road was very dangerous. I saw dead bodies lying around everywhere on the road, but my heart told me to carry on until I reach Chikraal. Eventually after much courage, I got my aunt’s parcel and returned back to the camp where my uncle and aunt were. It was already Esha time, and the soldiers rebuked me telling me that it was late. I gave them my excuse that I had some important work to be done.

When I entered the camp, my aunt and uncle were very happy to see me. Moreover, I had their money. All the other Hindus gathered around seeing me return the parcel to my aunt. They were all very proud of my trustworthiness and one of them even exclaimed: “After all he has Hindu blood. Why should he not be trustworthy?”

I corrected him saying: “No, Sir! What you are saying is wrong. Had I not been a Muslim, I would not have returned the trust. Islaam teaches us not to break one’s trust and to always return the rights of people to them safe and sound. Thanks to Allaah Taala,” my mother was also very pleased, that I had retained the respect of the family. I too, was very delighted to have returned my aunt’s trust. “All praises are due to Allaah Taala alone.” I did not give a bad name to Islaam and Allaah Taala protected me from Haraam wealth.”

MORAL: To deceive in a trust is a major sin. It causes difficulty to people and also angers Allaah Taala. Therefore, do not eat up anyone’s right and fulfil your promises. Return the trust of people and elevate the status of Islaam.
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## 31. THE CORRECT WUDHU

Who has not heard of the name Hasan and Husain τ? They were two brothers, the sons of Ali and Fatima τ. Their grandfather was Rasulullaah ρ.

Since they were small, their parents had taught them good manners and Islaamic teachings. Hence, they were quite aware of the practises of Deen.

One day, the two brothers were sitting in the Masjid when an old man came into the Masjid to perform his Salaah. He first made Wudhu. But his Wudhu was incorrect. Hasan and Husain τ wanted to correct the elderly man, but how could they do that?

Since they were young and it was not befitting for them to correct an elderly man. They eventually decided on a method.

They went to the old man and one of them said: "Uncle! My brother here claims that he makes Wudhu better than me. O old man! We would like you to judge between us. See how we make Wudhu and you decide which of the two of us makes better Wudhu."

The old man agreed. So, both of them sat in front of him and made Wudhu. He observed and realized that the youngsters were trying to teach him the correct procedure of Wudhu. When they finished off making Wudhu, he held them by their hands and affectionately said: "Children! Now I have learnt the correct method of making Wudhu. I really appreciate the wise way in which you chose to correct me. Now, I want both of you to see me make Wudhu."

So this was the way, with respect and dignity, Hasan and Husain τ taught the elderly man the correct way of making Wudhu.

MORAL:
1. When teaching others, we must adopt the way of Hasan and Hussein τ. Our method must generate interest and enthusiasm.
2. We must learn the correct method of Wudhu with all of its Sunnahs and Obligations.
3. Brothers must love one another.
4. Respect for the elders and addressing them with dignity.

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## 32. TAUBAH (REPENTANCE)

Jamal was famous for his pick-pocketing. Cutting off people's pockets was child play for him. He was so good at it, that they did not even know he was cutting off their pockets. Already, from a distance he could spot how much of money the person had in his pocket. And, he never got caught.

He had many co-pickpocketers who learnt from him the art of stealing. They even gave him the title 'Ustadh.' Everyday, they all met at Jamal's place and from there they proceeded towards the bus-stops and shopping-centres, pick-pocketing the entire day. In the evenings, they would all meet-up at Jamal's place once again.

Today too, as per routine Jamal went to the bus-stop and saw a man dressed in white. He targeted the man's wallet and ran away around the corner. But, as he opened the wallet, instead of finding money, all he found was a sticker. The sticker read a Hadith of Rasulullaah ρ: "A Muslim is he from whose hands and tongue others are safe."

This really had a great impact on Jamaal. The hair on his body stood up and his heart started beating fast. It was like a sudden darkness that overlapped his sight. And his body started trembling. This was indeed an eye-opener for him. The words of Rasulullaah ρ saved him today.

Jamal took the wallet and returned it to the person he stole it from. He asked the man to forgive him.

In the evening when all of his students gathered, he told them of his strange experience today. They listened attentively and were all touched by Jamal's incident. They made Taubah to Allaah Taala and resolved never to steal again.

MORAL: Allaah Ta'ala guided an evil person through the words of his beloved Nabi, Rasulullaah ρ. Let us also resolve never to cause any difficulty to the next person.

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## 33. SMALL DEEDS

"Oh no! Why are you stopping the bicycle?" Farooq cried out irritatingly.

"Just wait a minute" replied Ali somewhat softly.

"Why one minute? We have just finished writing our final examination paper, and now I want to go home to relax, and… and…"

"Yes! Yes! You can go home and do what you want." Ali said as he climbed down the bicycle.

Farooq, who was sitting behind, also had to get off.

Ali removed the big stone that was in the middle of the road and threw it to the side. And, then he dragged the thorny bush to the other side. The thorns left scratched marks on his hands.

Farooq, just stood there and watched.

“Have you not heard, that to remove an obstacle from the way is a good deed?” Ali remarked smilingly, as he wiped off the blood from his hands.

“But the people are not blind? They can avoid the obstacles themselves as they pass them on the path? Why must we remove them? It is not our job and duty to clean-up the road?” Farooq exclaimed somewhat making his face funny.

“It is not a question of duty! Rather, it is an act of piety. We must not allow a small action to just go by.” Ali tried to explain.

“If you want to do pious actions, then go ahead and do the big actions such as Salaah; fasting; Haj and…” Farooq was still saying this and Ali interrupted by saying: “Do not consider small acts as useless, but rather, think about the pain that others go through. That is also counted as good deeds. Along with the rights of Allaah Taala, the rights of people are also important.”

Ali’s explanation was fruitless, as Farooq had made up his mind. He persisted on his line of reasoning and Ali could not change it in any way. This was one matter they could not agree upon. Nevertheless, Ali did not take it too much to heart as he did not want their little squabble to spoil his close friendship with Farooq. He was confidant that Allaah Taala loved such actions and that was enough for him.

The next day, Ali was reading his favourite books and the house phone rang. It was a call from Farooq’s home telling him that Farooq was admitted to hospital, and he was thinking of him. Ali was astonished to learn that just the day before his friend was fine and today he was in a hospital.

How much more bad could things get? Ali went to the Masjid that day, and as he was returning he slipped on a banana peel and fell into a hole. Luckily, his brother who was with him helped him come out of the hole. But, unfortunately he injured his leg and they had to put a plaster over it.

Ali then went to visit his friend, Farooq who was still ill in bed. He described to Ali’s father the unpleasant incident that happened to Farooq. Ali glimpsed at Farooq’s plastered-leg remorsefully.

“I do not understand why people throw things on the road? Yet leaving it without moving it away to one side! The values of small actions have become a thing of the past. We consider helping the next person as trivial, whereas such moments of helping others are indeed very precious.” Thus exclaimed Farooq’s father as he passed a glass of water to Farooq. Farooq held the glass unsteadily.

Ali noticed his sunken expression. Farook could not face up to him. But Ali came closer and held him warmly by his hands.

“Dear friend! I notice all these moments of shame surrounding you. But, I am sure that this has automatically made you realize the importance of valuing little actions.”

“Yes, Ali! Now I’m also with you on this whole ‘small actions thing’.”

Thus, Farook’s resolve threw a smile on Ali’s face, and his lips moved in prayer for him.

MORAL: Rasulullaah ρ has said: “A believer is a mirror for a believer. They are brothers of one another and protected on all sides against one another”.

Friends! No matter how small an act of piety may be. After all it is an act of piety. Moving a harmful object away from the road is an act of piety too. We do not realize the amount of people that benefit by such small actions. People could get hurt; whilst others could slip and fall; and this would become a huge problem. Hence, remove all harmful objects away from the road.

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## 34. THE WISE KING

There was a man who lived in the city. He was a very experienced man as he visited and travelled to many places, where he met with many different kinds of people.

One day, when he returned from one of his travels, his clothing was full of dirt and dust. The King of the city, who was a very good King, told the traveller to have a bath and ordered for clean clothing to be given to him.

The traveller lauded the King and his kingdom saying: “O King! I have never seen people happier than those living in Your Kingdom. They seem not to have any problems. And, I have never seen people drinking liquor in Your Kingdom. Let alone

seeing any drunken people, but even the liquor stores are barren in Your Kingdom. And the greatest achievement of all is that, You (O King!) always see to the comfort of your subjects."

The King was really amazed at these words. He honoured the man and showered him with many gifts. The man's reply was so eloquent that the King raised his status above all others.

The King pondered for a moment and decided to make him his minister. However, he must go through a test first because without a test, he would not come to know the true character of the man.

The days passed by and the King observed the man's good character and habits. He noticed the influence and popularity the man enjoyed amongst the people. At last, he made him his minister.

The man fulfilled his duties as a minister with outmost responsibility and trustworthiness. He ensured that no one experienced any difficulty under him. His faithfulness was such that those who were jealous of him could not find any reason to influence the King against him. He possessed no bad habits.

It so happened, that one day the King sent two slaves for the minister. They had to serve the minister and see to his comfort. Since the minister's character was good, the slaves were very happy to serve him. They worked merrily around him and even chatted along with him very often. This was quite strange for the people, because slaves are often ill-treated by their masters.

The jealous ones amongst them conspired against the minister and went to the King complaining: "O King! It is not befitting for your minister - who has such a high status - to sit and chat all day with his slaves. Such a person who does not realize his status should not be made a minister."

The King was wise. He did not take any immediate action by just hearsay. But, he said: "Let me investigate first. If the allegations are true, then I would discipline the Minster. And, if the allegations are untrue, then I would punish those who started the rumours." The King said this and sent the jealous-ones away.

He then went quietly to see what the minister was doing. To his surprise, he found that really the minister was sitting and chatting to his slaves. The King became furious and at once drew out his sword to behead the minister. But something stopped him. His heart told him to listen to the minister's side of the story first.

The King called the minister and asked him to explain his actions. The minister said: "O High One! What you have said is quite true. But, I have become old now. My chatting to my teenage slaves is simply to help me remember my teenage years. And, this helps me to keep going. Based on this, I am justified by my actions."

The King said: "Absolutely! Your actions are justified. You may go."

He was grateful that he did not act hastily and thus lose such a good minister. He reprimanded the jealous-ones harshly and warned them against ever complaining about the good minister.

MORAL: We learn good character and trustworthiness. We should not allow jealousy to over power us. The help of Allaah Taala is always with the one who has good character and is trustworthy. No one can harm such a person. We also learn that we should not jump to conclusions on just hearsay. Or else, we would become ashamed of ourselves by making the wrong decisions.

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## 35. THE THREE TRUTHFUL FRIENDS

There were three pious friends, Waqidi, Hashemi and Taajir living in Baghdad who were very close to each other. They shared one another’s anguish. Once, just a few days before Eid, Waqdi was in some financial trouble. He did not even have one blue bean.

His wife told him: “Waqidi! As for us, we can make do with our old clothing for Eid. But, what about the children? If they go out wearing these torn-up clothing, they will feel embarrassed especially, when they see their other friends wearing new clothing. In whatever way you can, try to arrange for some money so that we could buy new clothing for the children.”

Waqidi pondered for a moment and said to himself: “let me ask my friend, Taajir.” So, he sent a message with his servant to Taajir asking him for help with some money. Upon hearing this, his friend immediately sent a parcel to him telling him that there were 1000 gold coins in it. He would be most delighted if Waqidi used it.

When Waqidi received the parcel he was very happy. He told his wife about it who also expressed her happiness. As he was about to open the parcel, someone knocked on the door. He opened the door and there stood Hashemi’s servant. “How may I help?” Waqidi asked.

The servant replied: “Hashemi needs some money very urgently. He has sent me to convey the message to you. If you would kindly help him, he would be most grateful.”

Waqidi became restless upon hearing his friend’s need. He forgot about his own need and sent the parcel off to Hashemi. After the servant had left, his wife asked him about the parcel. To which he replied: “I sent it to Hashemi as he is more in need of it than me.” His wife was also very pious. She remarked: “Indeed! You have done a very good thing by helping your friend in deed. We can make do with whatever we have for Eid.”

They were still having this conversation and all of a sudden there was a knock on the door. He opened the door and to his amazement, it was Taajir holding the same parcel which Waqidi had sent to Hashemi. Waqidi asked: “Tell me what is happening?”

Taajir said: “My beloved friend! Initially, I was in need of some money so I asked Hashemi for some help. Hashemi did not have anything to help me out with. So he in turn asked you for help. You helped him with the same parcel that I had sent for you. When he sent this parcel to me I asked him how did he have the parcel which I had sent to Waqidi? That is when he told me the whole story from beginning to end. So, we thought amongst ourselves that we should return the parcel to you, that way at least one of our needs would be fulfilled.”

Waqidi remarked: “The truth is that all of us are in need of this money. The best is that we divide the money equally amongst ourselves. This would help all the three of us.”

Hence, they distributed the money amongst the three of them. It so happened that the neighbours came to know about this incident. They spoke about it to others and eventually the whole of Baghdad were talking about it. The news reached the governor of Baghdad, Yahya Barmaky. He was very pleased to learn, that these friends considered others above themselves.

In his expression of happiness, he sent 7000 gold coins to the three friends as a gift. He ordered them to divide 2000 gold coins equally amongst themselves and to give 1000 to Waqidi’s wife, as she was also part of the kindness.

MORAL: A good friend is he who helps in the time of need. We must make such friends who have good character and they must be such that they help others. It must not be so that at the time of need they run away.

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## 36. JUST FORGIVE HIM

One day, King Haroon Rasheed was with his ministers and advisors, when one of his princes angrily entered the court and cried out: “O Father! The son of a certain leader has sworn my mother.”

King Haroon Rashid asked his ministers: “What punishment must be meted out to this person?”

A minister replied: “O King!  Kill him!”

Another said: “Cut of his tongue!”

A third one said: “Exile him!”

But, King Haroon Rashid did not pay any attention to their suggestions. He told his prince: “Either forgive him or swear his mother back. However, you will not be allowed to act more than that. Otherwise, that would be an over doing on your part. And, your enemy would have a claim over you.”

MORAL: Abu Hurayrah τ narrates from Rasulullaah ρ who said: “The strong one is not he who wrestles and over powers his opponent. But the strong one is he who controls his anger after being provoked.” We learn that if anyone oppresses us in any way, e.g. someone swears at us, then instead of taking revenge we should forgive him. So that he does not commit such a wrong again, in the future. And, he must also becomes in the habit of forgiving.

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## 37. THE SNAKE AND THE FARMER

A farmer was once tilling his land and all of a sudden he came across some snake-eggs. A snake laid them under the shade of one of the trees. The farmer stopped his machine, picked up the eggs and placed them in a safe place and then continued tilling his land.

Not long afterwards, the snake came looking for its eggs. But found that its eggs were no longer there. The farmer already ploughed the ground under the tree. The snake was furious and made its way towards the farmer, who was sitting under another tree waiting for his bucket to be filled up with water. It put its pangs onto the bucket and let out its poison into the water in revenge for its missing eggs.

Then the snake, in a fit of rage started moving up and down the farm. After a while, it spotted some eggs in a distance, where the farmer had placed them safely. It rushed closer and found that truly those were its eggs. The farmer had placed them in a safe place to avoid destruction.

The snake was ashamed of the way it had acted in such haste. In fact the farmer was kind to move the eggs to a safer place. Now, what should it do about the water which it had poisoned? The snake thought to itself. If the farmer drinks it, then he would die. And this will be unfair on its part!

So, the snake quickly rushed towards the bucket of water and wrapped itself around it. It squeezed itself so hard against the bucket that the bucket fell and all the poisoned water spilled over. When the farmer came to drink the water after tilling his land, he was disappointed to find the water spilled-over. There was not even a sip of water to drink from and he was thirsty.

All along, the farmer's friend was sitting nearby under a tree looking at this whole scene. He called out to the farmer and told him all about the snake. That it first poisoned the water and then returned later to spill it over. The farmer was very upset at this. That he was kind enough to save the snake's eggs from destruction and this was what he got in return.

MORAL: We must always be kind towards humans and animals. Do not harm them in anyway, because Allaah Ta'ala becomes angry.

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## 38. SINCERITY AND ITS HIGH RANK

Abu Amar Bin Najeed τ was a pious person of the fourth century. Once, the finance for protecting the borders of the town were finished. So, the Mayor of the town called all the rich people together and asked them to donate towards the fund. Abu Amar Bin Najeed τ came in the dark of the night and donated 200,000 Dirhams.

The next day, to show his appreciation, the Mayor called all the people together again and praised Abu Amr τ for helping the Muslims at a time of such great need. Everyone turned towards Abu Amr τ in amazement. He stood up in front of everyone and exclaimed: "In fact, that was my mother's money. I did not ask her permission at the time. Now she is unhappy. So, I wish to return the money back to her. Hence, give it back to me."

The Mayor returned the money. However, the next night Abu Amar came back and donated all the money again. But this time he warned the Mayor from telling anyone about his donation. The Mayor's eyes were filled with tears and He exclaimed: "O Abu Amar! What sincerity you have!!!"

MORAL: It is the blessing of Islaam that Allaah Ta'ala had created such people who did not wish an atoms worth of fame. We should take a lesson from this and also become such. Everything that we do must be done only for the pleasure of Allaah Taala.

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## 39. THE REWARD OF THE ARROW

During the siege of Umooriyyah one enemy-soldier stood up on top of a wall and screamed out insults against Rasulullaah ρ. What could be worse than this, for the Muslims? Every Muslim soldier wanted to have his hand in the killing of this wretched person. But it was very difficult to kill him as he was standing in a very secured and awkward position.

Yakoob Bin Jafar τ was an excellent archer from the Muslim army. He was eagerly waiting for the smallest chance he could get to kill this wretched soldier. The siege went on and the soldier continued insulting Rasulullaah ρ. Yakoob Bin Jafar τ found the perfect moment and shot an arrow straight at the soldier's heart. At last, he fell

from the wall dead. The Muslims cried out 'Takbeer!!!' it was indeed a happy moment for the Muslims.

Mutasim, the leader of the Muslims called Yakoob and offered him a monetary price in return for the reward he got for shooting that one arrow.

Yakoob said: "Rewards are not sold."

Mutasim: "I will give you 100,000 gold coins."
Yakoob refused.

Mutasim: "Ok! How about 500 000 gold coins?"

Yakoob: "You can give me the whole world, but I will not sell the reward for anything in return. However, as a gift I do not mind giving you half of its rewards."

Mutasim was overjoyed, as if someone had given him the whole world.

Mutasim asked: "Where did you learn archery?"

He replied: "I learnt it back home in Basra."

Mutasim: "Then sell me the place where you learnt archery." He said: "I will not sell the place, but I wish to give it away for the pleasure of Allaah. So, that Mujahedeen may learn archery there."

Mutasim was very pleased to hear this. He gave Yakoob a gift of 100,000 gold coins.

MORAL: No Muslim should tolerate anyone insulting Rasulullaah ρ. Our faith forces us to get rid of such a person from the face of the earth. We must inculcate the love of our beloved Rasulullaah ρ such that no one dare insults him.

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## 40. THE ONE WHO MADE A HOLE

The Umawy leader, Musallamah Bin Abdul Malik had surrounded one of the forts in one of the battles. The Muslims were finding it difficult to achieve victory. So, he chose a few of the brave young soldiers to strategically attack the fort.

All of a sudden, one of the brave youngsters rushed forward -breaking through the lines of the enemy – and advanced rapidly towards the fort shooting arrows wildly like a mad person. He finally reached the walls of the fort and made a hole in it. The Muslim army then entered the fort and conquered it.

Everyone was looking for this brave lad who was responsible for the victory. "Who was it?" but, none could recognize him. Musallamah asked everyone. But they could

not identify the young lad. He then gathered the whole army and announced: “Will the person who made the hole in the fort come forward please?”

The whole army was silent. Still no one came forward.

Musallamah announced for the second time: “By the name of Allaah Ta’ala, will the lad who broke a hole in the fort come forward please.”

Upon this, a warrior - whose face was fully covered - came out. Only his eyes were visible. He came forward and stood right in front of Musallamah.

He said: “I was the one who broke the hole in the fort. Had you not taken an oath in the name of my Rabb, I would not have come forward.”

“Now, I also take the name off your Rabb that you do not ask me my name and even if you do find out my name then do not let anyone know about it. I have done this solely for the pleasure of that being - Allaah Ta’ala - who has the power to grant me even more than what you can offer."

Musallamah then made the following Dua: “O Allaah! Let me be with the one who broke a hole in the fort.”

MORAL: We must also be like the above youngster who had done everything with outmost sincerity, only for the pleasure of Allaah Taala. If we do anything to show others, such as performing Salaah, Fasting and doing good to others, then Allaah Ta’ala would not be pleased with us nor will we gain any reward for it.

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## 41. WHAT AN AMAZING SACRIFICE

Those who have seen and learnt from the beloved companions of Rasulullaah ρ are called Tabieen. Taabieen is the plural of Tabiee. During the Umayyad dynasty many Tabieen were alive. They lived in different cities and they taught the people Deen.

One such Taabiee was Ebrahim Bin Yazeed Taymee τ. He lived in Kufa. Most of his life he spent in worshiping Allaah Taala. He was a very pious, Allaah-fearing person. Whenever he performed Salaah he focused his total attention towards Allaah Taala. He would become oblivious of his surroundings. In the position of Sajdah the birds would sit on his back and pick on him with their beaks. Besides the fast of Ramadan he kept other optional fasts too and he passed most of his days living on just a single date.

There was also another pious person with the same name, Ebrahim Bin Nakhee τ. He was also a Taabiee and he was very well versed in Ahadeeth and Fiqh. The governor of Kufa and Basra, Hajjaj bin Yusuf Thaqafi oppressed the people very much. Hajjaaj hated Ebrahim Bin Yazeed Nakhee τ, because he often spoke-out against his oppression, and included Hajjaaj amongst the oppresses. He stopped Hajjaj from oppressing people.

One day, Hajjaaj ordered his soldiers to arrest Ebrahim Bin Yazeed Nakhee τ and bring him in his presence. The soldiers went out to arrest him. They searched and searched for him everywhere, but could not find him. On the way they saw Ebrahim Bin Yazeed Taymi τ. When he learnt that the soldiers are looking for Ebrahim Bin Yazeed Nakhee τ, he understood that Hajjaaj wanted to kill him. He quickly went forward and told the soldiers that he was Ebrahim Bin Yazeed Nakhee τ.

The soldiers neither knew who Ebrahim Bin Yazeed Nakhee τ was, nor did they know who Ebrahim Bin Yazeed Taymi τ was. So they arrested Ebrahim Bin Yazeed Taymi τ. Hajjaaj ordered that they tie him up in chains and throw him in the jail of Deemaas. The jail of Deemaas was notorious for hardened criminals. Life was very difficult there as there was no means of protection, neither from the heat of the sun nor from the rain.

After a few days of staying there, Ebrahim Bin Yazeed Taymi τ became very ill, weak and dehydrated. His skin became so pale that his mother could not even recognize him. Yet, he bore the difficulties and hardships with tremendous courage and patience. He did not even disclose to them that he was not the person who Hajjaaj was looking for, Ebrahim Bin Yazeed Nakhee τ. However, after some time off torture and brutality in this dreaded jail, passed away. Just for the sake of his brother in Islaam - Ebrahim Bin Yazeed Nakhee τ - he sacrificed his life.

Hajjaj lived for another few years and died in the lifetime of Ebrahim Bin Yazeed Nakhee τ. When he heard of the passing away of Hajjaaj bin Yusuf, he fell into Sajdah and said: “O Allaah! Thanks to You for removing an oppressor from the face of the earth.”

MORAL: We should forgo our needs for the next person. Develop within ourselves “Ieethaar”. “Ieethaar” means to sacrifice ones needs for the next person. If we have “Ieethaar”, then we will not become jealous of the next person. And, we will not have evil intentions.

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## 42. TO BE REMORSEFUL

Ahmed wished to buy a set of binoculars. There was a beautiful garden not very far away from his house, which he wanted to enjoy by watching its amazing view through binoculars. But he did not have enough money to buy it. One day after school, he went to the shop to find out the price of a set of binoculars. He thought that he should speak to his father about it. Perhaps his father would help him buy it.

The following day he went to his father and spoke to him about the binoculars. Father thought for a while, and then replied: “Sure Ahmed! I will buy it for you, but on one condition.”

“And what is the condition, father?” Ahmed asked.

Father said: “Since it is your half yearly exams. If you get high marks in all of your papers, then I will buy the binoculars for you.”

The next day, Ahmed started studying hard for his exams. There were just a few days left for the examinations. Like the other years, this year too he did not worry so much about studying for his exams. But this time he worked very hard, and in a few days he was satisfactorily prepared to write all of his subjects besides mathematics. He found it difficult to understand mathematics, because he never paid much attention to it.

One day, at school after the Maths period, his teacher called him and told him: “Ahmed! Take these notes to the staff room for me, as I have to go to the principle’s office for some urgent work.”

Ahmed went towards the teacher’s table to take the notes. But as he reached out for it his eyes fell on the maths papers that were on the teacher’s table. No one was looking and his mind was on the binoculars. He looked around him and peeked into the paper. He saw the questions and quickly noted them down in the back of his exercise book.

The examinations ensued and Ahmed knew the answers. He hoped for the highest marks in his class. At last, his wishes were becoming true. The results came and Ahmed took the first five positions in class. His parents were very pleased with him but were also very surprised. And, so were his teachers. All his marks were outstanding besides mathematics, for which he got 98. But, Ahmed was not so very happy. He was lost in his thoughts and he did not say a single word to his mother. Father was surprised that he did not ask for the binoculars as yet.

At last, after Asr his father told his mother: “Call Ahmed, I want to buy the binoculars for him.”

Ahmed’s mother went to call him in his room, but to her amazement, Ahmed was crying. His mother became worried. She asked: “What is wrong son?”

“Mother! Mother!” cried Ahmed.

“Yes darling! Tell me what is wrong?”

“Mother! I cheated.” and he is related the whole story.

Mother said: “It is a good thing that you are still remorseful over your actions. Many people do not take such actions to heart. Anyway, go with your father and buy the binoculars.”

Ahmed: "But mother! It was the binoculars that caused me to cheat! Now, I do not wish to buy the binoculars."

Mother: "Just to be remorseful over your mistakes is a great thing indeed. Ask Allaah Ta'ala for forgiveness, and surely He will forgive you. Now, go on and buy your binoculars."

MORAL: Indeed, it is a great sin to cheat. Cheating in an examination is a sign of laziness. Those who work hard and place their trust in Allaah Ta'la never cheat. They do not shy away from hard work.

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## 43. THE AMEERUL MUMINEEN'S HORSE

One day Ameerul Mumineen, Umar Farook τ had to leave home in the afternoon for some important work. It was a very desert-hot sunny day. He threw a cloth over his head and left. After finishing off his business he got very tired due to the sun and the heat. All of a sudden he saw a poor man riding on a donkey. The man was someone's slave. He requested the poor man: "Brother! I am very tired. Kindly give me a ride on your donkey."

The slave recognized him immediately. So he got off from the donkey and made way for Ameerul Mumineen to get onto his donkey.

Ameerul Mumineen said: "I do not want to cause any difficulty to you for my comfort. You ride in front and I will sit behind you."

So the slave jumped in the front and Ameerul Mumineen sat behind. This way they entered Madinah. The people saw this and were very much surprised at him sitting behind the slave. But Ameerul Mumineen did not worry about what the people thought for he considered himself a servant, although he was a King.

MORAL: Umar τ, by this action made a point to the rulers and Kings of the world that a King ought to be a servant of the people. He should not cause difficulty to them. In the same way elderly children should not order the young children around. Rather, they should treat them with kindness.
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## 44. IMAM SHUBAH τ's GENEROSITY

Imam Shubah τ was a great scholar of the second century. He had many students. Some of whom came from wealthy families. The Khalifa Mahdi liked him very much. However, Imam Shubah τ did not take any worldly benefit from any one of them. He led a life of austerity no matter how great a scholar he was. He was very generous. Whatever came in his hand, he would distribute it to the poor and needy. There was never a situation that a poor person would come to his door and leave empty handed. Even if he was teaching his lessons and a poor person came then he would stop his lesson and fulfil the poor person's need and thereafter resume the lesson.

One day Khalifa Mahdi came to him and gave him 3000 gold coins. He took the whole lot and distributed it to the poor and the destitute. He did not even keep a single gold coin for himself.

On another occasion Khalifa Mahdi gave him a big piece of land in Basra. However he returned the land to the Khalif telling him that he could not manage the land.

Imam Shubah τ's neighbour was a poor old man. One day he came to Imam Shubah τ and asked him for something. He replied: "O my brother! You know that I do not have anything at the moment so why do you ask?"

The old man started to cry so Imam Shubah τ told him: "Here, take this! I have a donkey. Take my donkey, for at this moment I do not have anything. Go and sell my donkey and use the money for yourself."

The old man took the donkey. While he was going, he met some of Imam Shubah τ's students. They asked him: "Old man! Where are you taking our teachers donkey?"

The old man replied: "Your teacher has given it to me."

The students understood what was going on. So, they bought the donkey back from the old man and gave him five gold coins. And then they gave the donkey to their teacher, Imam Shubah τ.

Likewise, once he was riding his donkey and on the way he saw a pious person, Suleiman bin Mugheera τ who started complaining about some difficulty.

Imam Shubah τ said: "By Allaah! Besides this donkey I have nothing else." Saying this he got off the donkey and gave it to the pious man.

Imam Shubah τ really loved the poor and destitute. He sat with them and was very happy to be in their company. It was as if he got a gift from someone. He was known as the 'father of the poor'. He would often say about himself: "If I have in my house just flour and enough for just one meal and if a poor person comes to me, then I would give that to him."

He passed away in the year 120 Hijri. When he passed away all the poor people cried over him. May Allaah Taala shower His mercy upon him.

MORAL: Allaah Ta'ala is the most generous. Some of his servants are also very generous. These generous servants always consider others over themselves. We should also be generous and develop the habit of spending in the way of Allaah Taala.

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## 45. THE BEAR THAT WAS IN TROUBLE

A rabbit was lying on its sleeping place and all of a sudden it heard a terrible sound. Its ears stood up in fear and again the same sound came. It was as if someone was in

trouble. The rabbit thought to himself that he should go outside and see what was happening. Perhaps someone was in need of help. But it was night time and the rabbit thought that if it had to go out of its hole then it may fall prey to some harmful creature. Why must it put its life in danger? So, it went back to sleep. But the sound kept coming. Tossing and turning the rabbit thought to itself that it is not a good habit to be self-centred. One should help others who are in need. Hence, it came out of its hole. The screeching sound was coming from the direction of the river.

It walked towards the river and from far it could see that someone was sitting there. As it drew closer it saw a bear. The bear was sitting with its legs stretched out stuck in something steel-like. It was trapped in a hunter's loop.

The rabbit asked the bear: "How did you get yourself trapped in this?"

The bear growled: "I came to drink some water at the stream. But, unfortunately for me I did not see the trap in the dark."

The rabbit noticed that there was a hunter who placed the trap to catch the animals. And that is how the bear got stuck in one of the traps. The bear was frightened. It started to cry and tried to pull its leg out of the trap, but could not. The rabbit told the bear to wait a little while it ran back into the forest to call its friends. It called all the animals together and brought them to the bear.

The animals really felt hurt when they saw the bear in such pain. They started thinking of ideas to remove the trap. But none of them could come up with a solution.

The squirrel said: "Let us make a big hole into the ground and dig the bear out from the trap."

The Rooster said: "That is a great idea!!! But poor bear's leg will still be stuck in the trap."

The rabbit said: "first we must all get to a safe place, before the hunter spots us. There we will think of a plan." The animals all agreed.

So the rabbit; the squirrel and the rooster started digging into the ground with their claws. The pigeon moved the sand with its beak. At last, after much digging, the trap came out from the ground. All the animals lifted the steel-loop together and they went away to a safe place. The bear too limped along with them.

They stopped by a hill. The rabbit inspected the trap very carefully. He spotted a screw in the loop. With much force he pulled out the screw and the trap opened up. The animals were afraid and ran away. The bear sighed of relief and stood up. He was free at last. The animals were all very happy to see their 'bear' friend free. The bear thanked all of them and then they all returned to their holes.

The next day the hunter came to see if he had caught anything in his trap. But to his astonishment, the trap was gone. It had disappeared.

The weak animals had got together on a united front and defeated the hunter. The hunter was sitting empty handed.

MORAL: What have you learnt from this story? The importance of unity and love for one another. The worst of enemies can be defeated in this way. We should help one another with our chores. In this way love will spread amongst us.

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## 46. A BAD HABIT

There was a person living in a village. Outwardly he seemed to be a very merciful person, of good habits and very politely spoken. But in reality he was a hypocrite. He was the direct opposite of his good habits. His heart was filled with ulterior motives.

A thorn-shrub was growing in the middle of the street where his house was. The man noticed that the thorn-shrub was growing bigger and bigger. If someone walked pass, then the shrub would cause harm to the person. Travelers would pass by and exclaim: “O brother! Please uproot the shrub and throw it away. Otherwise it would harm the servants of Allaah.” The man would listen with one ear and let it out from the other ear.

He was heedless of what people said and did not uproot the shrub. The shrub grew bigger and thicker. The thorns started to grow on it. The thorns harmed the passers by. Yet this did not bother him at all.

Finally, the people found it difficult and complained to the King. The king summoned the man to court and said: “Do you not realize how aggrieved (troubled) the people are, due to your thorny shrub. Daily how many travelers are hurt by its thorns? I hereby emphasize that you immediately uproot the thorn-tree, so that passers by are saved from being harmed.”

He replied: “O King! Your royal Highness! Do not stress. I will certainly uproot the shrub by tomorrow.” But in his heart he did not love the servants of Allaah. He was a hypocrite. So, he did not uproot the shrub and kept on delaying it for the next day. His laziness to uproot the tree increased as the days passed. He would say: “When I get a chance, then I will uproot the shrub.” But again he would postpone it for the next day. Until the shrub became so huge and dense that the passers by were very much harmed. The people went again to complain to the king. The king summoned him for the second time. He firmly said to the man: “You are not a man of his word. You are an oppressor!!! Carry out my command at once and stop making more excuses. Everyday you promise that you will uproot the shrub.”

Remember that if a bad habit is not put to an end immediately, then it becomes strong like a tree trunk that grows crooked. You would become old and the shrub would become like a huge tree. Therefore, uproot the tree and do not lose this opportunity. Through this you will attract the love of the servants of Allaah, and this great quality will benefit you. You would then become a beloved servant of Allaah.”

MORAL: Bad habits are like thorny shrubs. All bad habits must be corrected as soon as possible. Otherwise we will harm ourselves as well as others.

Friends! If you see a thorn, stone or glass on the road, then move it away immediately, so that passers-by may not be harmed. Similarly, if we have any bad habits, then we must endeavour removing it, otherwise to remedy it later becomes difficult.

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## 47. WINNING THE HEARTS OF PEOPLE

Once Husain τ and his brother, Muhammad bin Hanafiyyah τ argued over something. They departed from one another unhappily. Upon reaching home, Muhammad bin Hanfiyyah τ wrote a letter comprising of the following subject matter to Husain τ:
"In the name of Allaah, the most compassionate the Most Merciful.
From Muhammad bin Ali to Husain bin Ali…

After many greetings…

"You have such piety and respect that I cannot reach your status. Since my mother is a simple woman from the tribe of Banu Hanafiyyah and your mother is Fatima Zahra τ, the daughter of Rasulullaah ρ.

Even if the earth becomes filled with women such as my mother, they will never be able to reach the status of your mother. Therefore, on this basis of respect and honour, read my letter and become happy with me and come to me.

It must not be such that I be the one who approaches the virtue that you are more deserving of."

Wassalaam"

When Husain τ read the letter, then he immediately went to the house of Muhammad Bin Hanafiyya and made up with him. This was the amazing way people made peace with each other.

MORAL: Allaah forbid! If we ever argue with someone over anything, then we must not become angry. If it does happen that we become angry, then we must be the first to make up.

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## 48. A STRANGE DUA

The second Khalifa, Umar τ was once making Tawaaf of the Blessed Kabah. Whilst making Tawaaf his gaze fell upon a Bedouin who was supplicating thus: "O Allaah! Include me amongst your few servants."

Upon hearing this, Umar τ was confused and said: "Bring this person to me."

When he was brought, Umar τ said: "O Servant of Allaah! What kind of Dua was that? I have never heard such a Dua before. What do you intend in this Dua?"

Bedouin: "O Ameerul Muminnen! Do you not you know what the meaning of this Dua is?"

Umar τ was even more confused and said: "How must I know?"

Bedouin: "You must have read the following verse of the Quran: -"very few amongst my servants are grateful"- I am praying to Allaah Ta'ala to include me amongst the few servants."

Umar τ: "You are indeed correct in you answer."

Umar τ said to himself: "every person is more knowledgeable than Umar."

MORAL:
1. Always be grateful to Allaah SWT.
2. Endeavour to learn any good thing just like Umar τ.
3. Do not be shy or embarrassed to ask about that which we do not know.
4. Develop the habit of making Dua.
5. Express thanks to Allaah upon achieving a blessing.

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## 49. THE BEST DUA

Abdullaah Bin Jahash and Sad Bin Abi Waqqas τ were both close companions of Rasulullaah ρ. They were always ready to sacrifice their lives for the sake of Allaah and Rasulullaah ρ. Both of them left their homes in Makkah for Allaah's sake migrating to Madinah. In the second year after Hijrah, when the first battle took place between the Muslims and disbelievers at the field of Badr, these two brave companions fought very bravely placing their lives at risk.

In the battle, Abdullaah Bin Jahash τ captured a famous, brave disbeliever, Waleed bin Waleed. Similarly, Saad τ killed a brave disbeliever, Saeed bin Aas and captured another three. Both of them dealt in such a good manner with their captives that they began realizing Islaam to be a true Deen.

In the following year, the disbelievers of Makkah prepared a huge army and headed towards Madinah, in order to take revenge for the defeat of Badr. When Rasulullaah ρ got the news, he also departed with his companions from Madinah for the combat.

About a distance of 2½ miles away from Madinah is a mountain called Uhud. The two armies faced each other at this mountain. The disbelievers were three thousand in number, while the Muslims were only seven hundred. Their horses and weapons were much less. But due to their trust in Allaah, they were prepared to fight such a mighty army of the disbelievers.

Abdullaah Bin Jahash τ and Sad Bin Abi Waqqas τ were both part of the Muslim army. A day before the battle of Uhud, Abdullaah Bin Jahash τ and Sad Bin Abi Waqqas τ left with their army. They came to a place and sat on a rock. They discussed about the forthcoming battle. Suddenly Abdullaah τ said to Saad τ: "My Brother! We may get another chance or we may not. So come! Let us reveal our wishes to Allaah and let us make Dua that Allaah fulfils our wishes. One will make Dua and the other will say Ameen to the other's Dua." Saad τ agreed.

First, Saad τ made Dua thus: "O Allaah! Tomorrow when it is the battle, then whichever enemy faces me, and if he is brave and attacks me fiercely, and I will pounce on him and vice versa, then grant me such strength that I may become victorious over him and I may kill him in Your path."

As Saad τ made this Dua Abdullaah τ said Ameen. Then Abdullaah τ lifted his hands and made Dua thus: "O Allaah! In tomorrow's battle when I face such an enemy who is a strong warrior, then let me fight with all my strength that I be killed at his hands. Let him mutilate my lips, ears and my nose so that when I come in front of You and You Ask me: "O Abdullaah! Why is your nose and ears cut off, then I may answer: "O Allaah! It was cut off for You and Your messenger."

This Dua was a very emotional and painful one. Tears began overflowing from Saad's τ eyes. But because he promised he said Ameen to the Dua.

The next day, the battle field was severe. Saad τ and Abdullaah τ both unsheathed their swords and penetrated the enemy lines. A brave Qurayshi pounced onto Saad τ and fought bravely finally killing him. In this manner his Dua was fulfilled. Abdullaah τ fought with such bravery that he did not know where his head was and where his feet was. Whilst fighting his sword fell down Rasulullaah ρ gave him a firm branch of a date tree, which he used as a sword. He remained fighting for a long time. Finally, a Kaafir, Ibnu Akhnas struck him so severely that he was martyred. The enemy cut of his ears, lips and nose. In this manner his Dua too was fulfilled.

After the battle Saad τ passed by the corpse of Abdullah bin Jahash τ. He uttered the following words unintentionally: "By the Qasm of Allaah! Abdullah's Dua was better than mine." He said these words because in the sight of Allaah, the status of a martyr is very great and immediately upon attaining martyrdom he reaches Jannah.

After this, whenever Saad τ fought the enemy in any battle, he would remember Abdullah bin Jahash τ and he would cry out remorsefully: "If only I had made the Dua of Abdullah in Uhud."

MORAL: To sacrifice for the Deen and attain martyrdom is indeed a great honour, because as soon as one becomes a martyr one enters Jannah. The first and last desire of each Muslim is that Allaah is pleased with him and he enters Jannah.

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## 50. PRAISE OR DISGRACE

Moosa υ once saw a shepherd on the road who was talking to Allaah Taala thus:

"O Allaah! Where are You? If only I could find You, I would become Your servant. Give me Your shoes so that I may clean them for You! Come, let me comb Your hair for You.

O Allaah! Where are You? So, that I may serve You. Give me your clothing so that I may wash them for You. Let me clean off the lice from Your head.

O Respected Allaah! Where are You? Could I offer you some milk to drink? When You become ill, then I may look after You. I wish to hold Your beloved hands. I wish to press Your legs for You. I wish to make Your bed for You so that You may be comfortable when You sleep. May my life be sacrificed for You, and may the life of my wife and children also be sacrificed for You. If only I knew where You stayed, then surely and I would visit You daily in the morning and evening. I will bring milk for You; I would bring some ghee for You; I would make bread for You; and I would bring everything else for You. O Great One! May all my animals be sacrificed for You. Do listen to my cry."

Moosa υ was listening to all that the shepherd was saying. He asked: "Who are you talking to like that?"

The shepherd replied: "I am talking to that Rabb who has created me and the heavens and earth."

Moosa υ shouted: "Are you gone mad? How dare you say such stupid things? You have disgraced Allaah Taala! You have said many disrespectful things about Allaah Ta'ala. If you do not revoke what you have just said then you will burn in the fire of hell."

The shepherd said: "O Moosa! You have made me feel very guilty of myself." He felt ashamed and ran away into the jungle.

Allaah Taala reprimanded Moosa υ thus: "O Moosa! You have separated Me from My servant. I have sent you to join people to Me! Not to separate them from Me! I have made each person's personality different. The shepherd was actually praising Me and talking great about Me. For you it seemed as if he was disgracing Me. But for him it was like honey. For you it was like poison. You ought to bring people closer to Me and ask for forgiveness. I do not become great by their glorification. Their Praises for Me makes them pure and benefits them."

MORAL: We perform Salaah, Fast and give charity. Allaah Taala does not benefit from it a bit. Yes, indeed He becomes very pleased with us when we do such things and he showers us with many rewards and blessings. The good actions and prayers that we do please Him very much and we benefit from it. Allaah Taala loves His servants very much. Therefore we should also shower our servants with gifts and happiness.

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## 51. THE KHALIFAH'S TAUBAH

One day, Khalifah Hishaam Bin Abdul Malik swore at someone in anger. The person listened silently. When the Khalifah finished he said: "O Ameerul Mumineen! Are you not ashamed of those filthy swearing words? Did Allaah Ta'ala give you authority to swear at your sub-ordinates?"

Khalifah Hishaam's anger subsided. He was embarrassed at the statement of the person and said: "Avenge me brother! Swear at me too." The man replied: "Must I also commit your mistake? I understand the sin of swearing."

Hishaam said: "Ok brother! Take any amount of money you want from me."

The man said: "Money cannot be a compensation for swearing."

Hishaam said: "Then forgive me for the pleasure of Allaah."

He said: "Ok! That will be fine. I have forgiven you for the pleasure of Allaah."

Hishaam lowered his head and remained silent for a while. He said: "By the Name of Allaah! I will never swear at anyone again."

MORAL: Rasulullaah ρ has said: "Swearing at a Muslim is a sin and to murder him is Kufr." If you have a high status, or if you are older than someone in age, then consider the young one. Do not say bad things to them, otherwise they too will develop bad habits. In fact always teach them good things. If someone errs, then forgive for the pleasure of Allaah.

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## 52. IMITATING CORRECTLY

Moulana Thanwi τ writes a story about Alamgeer τ …

When he became the King and he was distributing gifts to his people, a conman also appeared. Alamgeer τ recognized the conman and said: "I will only give you something if you are able to con me."
So, the conman went away. He tried many ways of tricking the King, but Aalamgeer τ was too smart for him. He did not fall for any of his tricks.

It so happened that the King was to travel to a certain place. The conman learnt of this and went to that place beforehand. He disguised himself as a pious person and stayed there. The word spread in the city that there was a very pious person in the town. The people flocked to listen to his talks and advise.

The King soon arrived at the town as per arrangement. It was his routine that whichever town he visited he asked about the pious people of the town. "Is there any learned person who I could meet in this town?"

The King's adviser replied: "Yes, there is a pious person whom you should meet."

Aalamgeer τ: "So let us go and meet him."

He took some gold coins with him to give to the pious person as a gift. He met with the pious person and Aalamgeer τ asked him some questions relating to Deen. The man answered with ease. (Conmen usually learn about everything in order to cheat people).

Aalamgeer τ was convinced about the man's credentials. He indicated to his advisor to forward the gifts to the pious man. But the pious man refused to accept the gifts. Now Aalamgeer τ was even more convinced.

Aalamgeer τ returned from there and proceeded to his court. The conman also followed suit. He sat in front of Aalamgeer τ and greeted. Aalamgeer τ looked at him properly and recognized that it was the conman. Aalamgeer τ acknowledged his defeat and gave the conman a gift as he had promised. The man accepted the gift, but it was small compared to what he would have got if he had accepted it earlier on. Aalamgeer τ asked him: "Why did you not accept the earlier gift which was much more?"

He replied: "Sir, whatever you give me is sufficient. As for the reason why I do not accept the gift at that time was because I was disguised as a pious man. And I was imitating the pious. It is not the norm of the pious to accept gifts. Had I accepted your gift then, I would not have accomplished the true imitation of the pious. And, that is not the way we conmen work"

Aalamgeer τ was impressed at his answer and showered him with many more gifts.

MORAL: Just as the conman was committed to his profession in imitating people correctly, we too must be committed in imitating and following the lifestyle of our Beloved Rasulullaah ρ. We must imitate the examples shown to us by our teachers; the Sahabah and our pious elders. In this way our lives would change dramatically for the better.

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## 53. IMITATING THE ATHAN

In the eighth year of Hijrah, in the month of Ramadhaan, Rasulullaah ρ had conquered Makkah. All the people of the Arabian Peninsula were now overwhelmed by the Muslims. However one tribe, the Hawaazins were adversely affected by this conquest. They gathered at the mountainous valley of Hunain and planned an attack on the Muslims. Rasulullaah ρ learnt of this and marched towards Hunain. A fierce battle broke out and the enemy was defeated.

This battle took place in the month of Shawaal. About fifteen to twenty days thereafter Rasulullaah ρ returned to Makkah. On the way, the time of Salaah had set in. Rasulullaah ρ ordered Bilal τ to call out the Athan. It so happened that there were a few mischievous youngsters of Makkah around who still had not accepted Islaam. They mockingly imitated the Athan. One of the youngsters had a very loud voice. After the Salaah, Rasulullaah ρ called the youngsters and asked them: “Who was the one with the loud voice imitating the Athan?”

All of them pointed towards the youngster. Rasulullaah ρ told him to repeat the Athan as he had imitated it. The youngster, known as Abu Mahthoora stood up to repeat what he was saying. But he had forgotten the words.

So, Rasulullaah ρ - with much love and tenderness - taught the youngster the words of the Athan. As Rasulullaah ρ was saying the words for him he repeated. As he was repeating the words the love of Islaam settled in his heart. As soon as Rasulullaah ρ had completed the words of the Athan, he accepted Islaam. Rasulullaah ρ was very pleased with him and gave him a gift in which there was some silver.

Then Rasulullaah ρ placed his hand on the youngsters hand and chest and prayed for him three times thus: “May the blessings of Allaah be upon you.”

The youngster requested Rasulullaah ρ: “O Messenger of Allaah! Allow me to be the official caller to prayer of Masjidul Haraam in front of the Kabah in Makkah.”

Rasulullaah ρ said: “Go ahead and call the prayer in Makkah.”

From that day onwards the youngster called the Athan in Makkah. In the year 58 Hijri he passed away. Thereafter his progeny took over the duty of calling to prayer in Makkah.

At the time when Abu Mahthoora τ accepted Islaam and started calling out the Athan he was just sixteen years old. Through the blessings of the Dua that Rasulullaah ρ made for him, the love of Allaah and his Rasulullaah ρ was embedded in his heart.

MORAL: When the heart is clean and the mind is sincere then even imitating lets one reach high stages. We must also imitate every good action of Islaam and reap the benefits there from.

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## 54. TAKE THE PRAYERS OF PEOPLE, AND NOT THEIR CURSES

The school bell rang, and all the children ran out. However, Sadaaqat did not run out like the other children but he walked out calmly. As he walked out from the school grounds he saw an old man standing. The old man was disturbed looking here and there.

Sadaaqat went towards him and asked: “Uncle! What is the matter? Why do you look so disturbed?”

“Son! One of the naughty pupils took away my walking-stick. Now, how am I going to walk home? That is why I am standing here so disturbed.”

Sadaaqat felt very sorry for the old man. He said: “Do not worry old man, I will take you to your house and I will also give you another walking-stick. Just place your hand on my shoulder and let me walk you through.”

The old man placed his hand on Sadaaqat’s shoulder and walked with him to his house. He gave the old man some food and drink and also brought another walking-stick for the old man. Thereafter he walked him to his house. All along the old man gave Duas to Sadaaqat.

Many years passed after the incident, and Sadaaqat graduated from school. One day, as he was driving in his car he saw someone standing on the roadside. The man was begging and he had a walking-stick in his hand. Sadaaqat immediately recognized the person. It was one of his classmates, Kaashif. He went towards him and exclaimed:

“Kaashif! Do you remember me?”

Kaashif replied: “Yes, Sadaaqat it is you! I remember!”

Sadaaqat: “What happened to you all these years? Why are you in such a state?”

Kaashif sighed: “What can I say! You may remember how naughty I was. One day I had taken away an old man’s walking-stick. I think his curse fell upon me. He must have prayed for me thus:” “May Allaah also let you become like me, that you too would not be able to walk without a walking-stick.”

“So one day, as I was walking and about to climb onto the bus I had a very hard fall and became crippled. My condition deteriorated and now I am walking about begging.”

Sadaaqat’s heart skipped a beat recalling the incident. It was the same old man who he had helped. The old man had prayed for Sadaaqat’s well-being. However Kaashif, was the victim of his curse.

Sadaaqat looked at Kaashif sorrowfully and said: “Kaashif! Come with me. I will help you to treat your leg.”

MORAL: Rasulullaah ρ has stressed that we help the weak and elderly. Allaah Taala then becomes pleased with us and He helps us with all of our work.

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## 55. ENTERTAINING THE GUEST

A Bedouin was made the governor of a certain place. For the full duration of his duty, he was separated from his family. One day, someone from his village came to the town where he was the governor, and visited him. The villager was very hungry. The governor was very pleased to see the villager. So he gave him a very warm welcome. He offered him food and drink and asked him about his family back home.

“How is my son, Umayr?”

“Maa Shaa Allaah! Your son has filled the whole village with your grandsons’ and grand daughters’.

“How is Umayr’s mother?”

“She is also fine.”

“Tell me about my dog?”

“Your dog keeps barking throughout the night and keeps the whole village awake.”

“OK then! Tell me about my camel.”

“Your camel is also doing fine.”

When the governor heard that everyone at home was fine, he called his servant to take the food away from the table. The guest still had not even eaten to his fill as yet. He was dumbfounded at his host’s move. He started having bad thoughts about the governor. The governor turned towards him and said: “repeat to me all that you had told me about my family back home.”

The villager started talking: “yes, go ahead and ask me again.”

“How is my dog?”

“Your dog has died.”

“How?”

“He choked on eating one of your camel’s bones.”

The governor looked at the villager quite shocked.

“What! Is my camel also dead?”

“Yes Indeed.”

“How?”

“Your son Umayr’s mother’s grave needed some water. The poor camel died carrying the water to and fro.”

The governor screamed out saying:

"Is Umayr's mother also dead?"

The villager nodded his head saying:

"Yes, the poor woman could not take it anymore after her son had passed away".

"What? Is my son also dead?"

"Yes, he was killed when the walls of your house fell on him."

"Is my house also destroyed?"

"Yes indeed, your house is also gone."

Upon listening to this, the governor became angry and went to get his stick to hit the villager. But luckily he had already left.

MORAL: We must not only entertain our guest to hear good things about us. And, do not take the food away from the table until the guest has completely finished eating. Otherwise, your guest may use the opportunity to tell you some bad news.

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## 56. ONE STORY… TWO LESSONS

Shaqeeq Balkhi τ and Ebrahim Bin Adham τ were two pious people that lived in the same time. One day Shaqeeq Balkhi τ came to Ebrahim Bin Adham τ and told him that I am here to greet you as I will be leaving on a business trip soon. And it may take a few months before I will return. A few days later Ebrahim Bin Adham τ saw that Shaqeeq Balkhi τ was still in town. He asked him:

"You still have not left for your journey?"

He replied: "I did go but I returned after seeing a strange incident. As I was travelling, I came to an uninhabited place. I stopped there for a while and as I was sitting, I noticed a weak, crippled and helpless bird. I really felt sorry for it. And I asked myself: "What must this poor bird been doing in order to survive?"

As this thought was crossing my mind, I noticed another bird flying by. It had something in its beak. It flew next to the helpless and lame bird, and dropped the food that it had in its beak. The helpless bird picked up the food and ate it. I was really amazed at the scene."

Upon seeing this incident I exclaimed: "Glory be to Allaah Ta'ala! If Allaah Ta'ala provides sustenance for a lame and helpless bird in such a way then why would he not provide for me too? I felt it unnecessary to travel for so long journeys at a time, from town to town seeking my livelihood. Hence, I returned."

Ebrahim Bin Adham τ heard this and said: “Shaqeeq! Why do you wish to become like the lame and helpless bird? Why do not you be an example of the bird that flew and dropped the food for the helpless and lame bird instead? Through your hard effort, you could help the poor and the weak.”

Shaqeeq Balkhi τ heard this advice of Ebrahim Bin Adham τ and immediately grabbed hold of his hand in appreciation. That he had removed the veil from his eyes and taught him a very valuable lesson.

MORAL: Allaah Ta’ala has taken the responsibility of providing sustenance for the whole of creation. However, we must also make an effort to receive that sustenance because there is honour and respect in making an effort. We should not leave our work for others to do.

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## 57. THE RESULT OF STEALING

There was once a snake-catcher. He caught a very poisonous snake and kept it in his basket. As he was returning home the sun was already setting. So he stopped at some place to spend the night. He was very tired, so he placed the basket with the poisonous snake next to him and fell asleep.

As he was sleeping, a thief came passing by and saw the snake-catcher sleeping with the basket next to him. He thought to himself that this must be a very valuable snake. So he stole the basket and walked away. As he walked a certain distance, a thought crossed his mind that he should see what type of a snake was in the basket.

So, he opened the basket and the snake attacked him. As it was a very poisonous snake, the thief fell down dead.

In the meantime, the snake-catcher woke up from his sleep and found that his basket was missing. He, at once set off searching for the snake. As he was searching, he found the dead body of the thief and this snake still in the basket nearby. He exclaimed:

“This thief saved my life over his. I was praying to Allaah Ta’ala for the safe return of my snake. And, Allaah Ta’ala has accepted my Dua. But as for this thief, he got his punishment in this world in the form of death.”

MORAL: Stealing is indeed a very bad habit. Imagine what a bad-death it is to die in this state. If we see any of our friends taking another’s pencil or sharpener without that person’s permission, then we must advise correctly. Through stealing a person earns a bad reputation and most of all, the displeasure of Allaah Taala.

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## 58. THE TOY- GUN

My mother was a very nice forgiving and tolerant woman. We were a total of three children, two brothers and one sister. Asad was the younger one and Fatima was the youngest of us all. I was the naughtiest from amongst them. Since I was the eldest, Asad and Fatima listened to whatever I had to say. Whatever I played they followed and played the same. Whatever I did they did it too. Often I would get a good hiding from father because of my naughtiness. Some times mother would hide my mischief and I would be spared. All of us at home perform Salaah. Because of this, since small I grew up performing Salaah. Sometimes I perform Salaah out of fascination and sometimes forcefully and even out of fear. But most of the time it was out of fear for father. I was never scared of mother.

Let alone shouting at us, mother never even lifted her hands on us. She would often advise us about keeping family ties with the relatives and fulfilling the rights of our neighbours and those who we meet with daily. And she practically showed us how to act on her advises. There was not a single day that I saw mother not practicing on what she said. For this reason, I believed in everything she said, because she never told a lie.

One day my friend, Akram came to play with me. He had a very nice toy gun, which his father bought for him. I also wanted a gun like that. So I nagged and nagged my parents to buy one for me. But no one listened to my nagging. Father said that it was a waste of time. So I made Sabr and stayed without it.

Then one day, Akram was playing with us and he forgot his gun. I took the gun and hid it away quickly. Akram returned to look for his gun. He even asked me. But I told a lie and said that I did not know where it was. He lost hope and went away. Soon everyone forgot about the gun.

One afternoon when everyone was having their afternoon siesta, I took out the gun quietly and started playing with it. After a little while, I felt someone was standing behind me. When I turned around I saw that it was mother. I sighed in relief. Luckily it was not father. But Mother's eyes were filled with anger. It was the first and I think the last time that I had ever seen her looking like that. She had already seen the toy-gun I was playing with. Her face was filled with redness out of anger. She gave me such a hiding that I will never forget. She shouted:

"You told a lie! You told a lie! Just for small thing like this, you have done very badly."

I thought that she would also cover-me up this time for my naughtiness. But, no it was not so. For that short moment I felt a lot of pain. But it was a lesson that I had learnt for the rest of my life. After that I never spoke a lie and never did I ever place my sights on anything un-useful.
Mother was a very kind and forgiving person. However, she wanted to teach me a very important lesson that she will not tolerate anything bad regarding Deen. Even nowadays when I look into my toy-box, and when I see my toy gun - which mother bought for me afterwards – I still remember that day.

MORAL: Our parents really love us very much and they only tell us beneficial things. So why should we not listen to them and make them happy. Let us please them and do not nag them for anything so that they become uncomfortable.

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## 59. THE FIRST POSITION

"… And, the first prize goes to Aslam Baajoo. The second prize goes to Raashid Mahmood. Both are requested to come to the stage and receive their prizes. First, Aslam Baajoo! " He immediately got up from his place and made his way towards the stage. Everyone was looking at him. He received his prize and shook hands with the guest of honour. Thereafter he proceeded back to his place. Then Raashid Mahmood did the same.

It was a speech contest in the school hall. The theme was 'helping the distressed humanity'. Everyone presented their speeches on the topic. They stressed on serving those who are in difficulty. At the end the judges had decided on two of the participants; Aslam Baajoo and Raashid Mahmood. Aslam Baajoo took the first place and Raashid Mahmood came out second. Raashid Mahmood was very happy and decided to quickly go home and tell the good news to his parents and his brothers and sisters. As the programme had finished he rushed out. Aslam Baajoo's friends were all around him surrounded.

Raashid Mahmood paddled his bicycle fast and approached a red robot. He stopped at the robot and along came another old man also riding on his bicycle. Both waited for the green light.

As the orange light was about to change to green a motorcycle zoomed past and bumped into the old man. When the rider saw Raashid Mahmood looking at him he zoomed away and did not care about the old man who was lying on the road. Raashid Mahmood got off from his bicycle to see to the old man. He was injured slightly. Raashid Mahmood helped the old man up and rode on.

His whole day was spoilt and he reached home very upset. Everyone at home looked at him astoundingly. Father tried to console him saying:

"Do not worry son! If you did not do well in the contest, then there is always a next time. You can work harder and get a prize in the future."

"Yes darling! It is nothing to be upset about. Things like this always happen. Sometimes you win and sometimes you lose." His mother said.

"But that is not the reason why I am upset. In fact, I have achieved second prize, through the mercy of Allaah Taala. The reason why I am upset is that I experienced an accident today whilst I was coming home." And he told them the story.

"And the saddest part of it all was that the one who was riding the motorcycle was none other than Aslam Baajoo who had taken the first prize."

"Everyone was shocked."

MORAL: Just as we work hard to take first positions in school we must ensure that our character and behaviour is just as good. We must honour and respect the elders. Do not cause any difficulty to them. Otherwise, our taking of first positions becomes useless. We must ensure that we fulfil the rights of others.

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## 60. SELFLESSNESS

The Masjid of Naagawaar was caught up in a fire. The Muslims suspected the Christians to be responsible. So, out of anger some Muslims set fire to the Christians' churches.

The King of the time learnt about the incident and ordered for the arrest of those Muslims who were responsible for setting fire to the Christians' churches. They were arrested and brought in front of the King. The King wrote the following punishments on a few pieces of paper:

1. To be lashed.
2. To be cut by the hands and legs.
3. To be killed.

These pieces of paper were then thrown to the prisoners. Whoever received whichever paper had to serve up that particular sentence. One of the prisoners got the paper with the order to be killed. He said:
"By Allaah! I do not fear to be killed. But I am worried about my elderly mother. If I am to be killed, then what will happen to her? As, I do not have any brothers or sisters who will take care of her."

A young prisoner who was sitting next to him got the paper to be lashed. He said:
"My mother has already passed away. Let us do like this. Give me your piece of paper and take mine. I will be killed and you will be lashed. That way your life would be spared and then you can go out and serve your mother."

The other prisoner accepted and they exchanged their papers. The first youngster was killed and the other one was lashed. Thereafter, he went out to take care of his mother.

MORAL: We must sacrifice our comforts for the next person.

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## 61. REGRET

Once, Umar Farooq τ was doing some very important work and someone came to him and said: "O Ameerul Mumineen! A certain person has oppressed me. Please come with me and take revenge for me from that person. Since, the person had come at a very awkward time when Umar Farooq τ was busy with some important work, Umar Farooq τ became very angry and lashed the person saying:

“I have a stipulated time to sort out people’s problems. Why do you not come to me with your problem at that time? It is strange that no one comes to me then. Rather, people would prefer disturbing me whilst I am busy with other work. So, come to me at that time when I deal with such issues. “

Upon hearing this, the person went away. After a short while, Umar Farooq τ’s anger subsided. He regretted not solving the person’s problem. And he was worried that:

“What will happen on the day of Qiyaamah when Allaah Taala asks me why I did not help a person in need. What would I answer?” so he called for the person. When the person came, Umar Farooq τ gave him a whip saying:
“I want you to lash me back the way I lashed you.”

The person said: “O Ameerul Mumineen! How can I lash you? This will never happen. I forego my right of taking revenge from you by Allaah Taala and I forgive you.”

Although, he had forgiven Umar Farooq τ, but Umar Farooq τ was still uneasy in his heart. He thought that on the day of Qiyaamah he must not be caught for his action. So, he went home, read two Rakaats Salaah and sat on his place for a long while regretting his action and saying to himself: “O Umar! You are not worth anything; eventhough Allaah Taala has made you the leader. You were astray but Allaah Taala guided you. You were oppressed, but Allaah Taala gave you respect. Your condition is such that a person comes to you for help but you return his request by lashing him and chasing him away. Tomorrow, in the presence of Allaah Taala, when he asks you what will you answer?”

MORAL: The noblest group of people, the Sahaba τ had so much of fear for Allaah Taala in their hearts. After all, why should they not have? Since they were trained by the Rasulullaah ρ.

If we happen to oppress anyone then we must at once asked for forgiveness from the person, just as Umar Farooq τ forgave. Otherwise, Allaah Taala are will not be pleased with us.

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## 62. RETURNING THE KNIFE

During the time of Khalifa Haroon Rasheed there was a pious person named Bahlool. Khalifa Haroon Rasheed often joked with him. But Bahlool would say intelligent things in return.

One day, when Bahlool was at Khalifa Haroon Rasheed, he gave him a knife and said: “Bahlool! I’m giving you this knife. Go and give it to someone who you think is more foolish than you.”

Bahlool took the knife and left sadly. Time went on and perhaps Khalifa Haroon Rasheed had forgotten about the knife. After some time Khalifa Haroon Rasheed became very ill. The doctors were saying that there was no hope of surviving the illness. Bahlool came to meet him and after greeting him he asked:

“O Ameerul Mumineen! How are you?”

Khalifa Haroon Rasheed replied: “Bahlool! The journey is a very long one.”

Bahlool: “Where are you going to?”

Khalifa Haroon Rasheed: “It is the journey of the hereafter.”

Bahlool: “When will you be returning?”

Khalifa Haroon Rasheed: “Bahlool! You are indeed very strange. There’s no returning from the hereafter.”

Upon hearing this, Bahlool remarked: “What? Do you mean that you will not be coming back?”

Khalifa Haroon Rasheed: “Yes indeed no one returns from this journey.”

Bahlool: “Then, have you sent your army forward to receive you there when you arrive? And, who will be going along with you? What preparations have you made?”

Khalifa Haroon Rasheed: “Bahlool! What are you saying? No one travels along with you in such a journey. Everyone goes empty handed.”

Bahlool: “Is that so? Such a long distance and no one to help you! Then here! Take back your knife. I am returning it to you. I have not found anyone more foolish than you.

Whenever I see you travelling, even for short distances then I see you send an entourage well ahead of time before your actual journey even begins. And you make preparations well in advance. Your security guards walk in front of you; your servants travel along with you; and, in fact your whole army goes along with you. But, now you will be travelling for such a long distance and you are saying that you will not be returning! Yet, you have not made any such preparations? How unfortunate of you!”

Khalifa Haroon Rasheed heard this and started to cry saying: “Bahlool! All along we had thought that you were insane. But, today we learnt that there is none more intelligent than you.”

MORAL: Indeed an intelligent one is he who prepares for death; he who prays on time; he who fasts; and he who calls people towards Allaah Taala. Friends! We aught to act upon the advises of the pious from our very young age. And we must stay away from actions that may be detrimental to our hereafter. Otherwise, it must not be so that we receive the knife due to our foolishness.

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## 63. FEARING THE HEREAFTER

Once an argument broke out between Abu Bakr τ and Rabiah Bin Ka'ab Aslamy τ, over a piece of land. Abu Bakr τ said some harsh words to Rabiah τ. Afterwards he felt some regret and told Rabiah τ: "O Rabiah! You too say something harsh to me in return."

Rabiah τ was not prepared to say something harsh to Abu Bakr τ.

Abu Bakr τ said: "Then I will complain to Rasulullaah ρ about you." Meaning that Rabiah τ should take revenge in any way. However Rabiah τ did not take any revenge but instead gave up the piece of land that they were fighting over.

Abu Bakr τ then went to Rasulullaah ρ, and Rabiah τ followed him. Rabiah τ's tribe stood up to support him saying: "First he says a harsh word and then on top of that, he runs to complain to Rasulullaah ρ."

Rabiah τ told his tribes-people: "Do not say anything in front of Rasulullaah ρ. Do you not know that Abu Bakr τ was the close, companion of Rasulullaah ρ in the cave of Hira? If you say something, then Abu Bakr τ would become angry, and when Rasulullaah ρ sees his close friend angry then he too would become angry. And then, when both of them become angry then Allaah Taala also becomes angry. Rabiah would then be destroyed."

Abu Bakr τ came in the presence of Rasulullaah ρ and related the whole incident to him. Rabiah τ too told his side of the story. Rasulullaah ρ praised Rabiah τ and said: "You have done well when you did not return a harsh word to Abu Bakr. Now just ask Abu Bakr to forgive you."

Rabiah τ acted upon the advice of Rasulullaah ρ . This had such an effect on Abu Bakr τ that tears filled his eyes and he cried out loudly.

MORAL: Rasulullaah ρ has said: "When Moosa υ presented himself in the court of Allaah Taala He asked: "O my Rabb! Who is the most respectable amongst your servants?" Allaah Taala replied: "That servant who has the power to take revenge but he does not. Rather he forgives. From this incident we learn the following lessons:

If someone causes harm to us, then we must forgive him immediately.

If someone has oppressed us in any way, then we should not seek revenge immediately. Rather we should forgive him and also make Dua for him.

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## 64. THE OTHER TEST

A woman once lived with her two sons in a village. The elder one's name was Akmal and the younger one was Afdhal. Akmal was in standard nine in school and Afdhal was in standard eight. It was the examination period. While Afdhal was preparing for

the paper he heard a strange noise. He dropped his books and running in came Akmal. He picked up a bucket and ran out.

Mother asked: “Son! What has happened? Where are you taking the bucket?”

“Mother! A fire has broken out in the shop down the road.”

“What?” she panicked. Afdhal stood up and looked out of the window. He saw smoke all over the place outside. Afdhal quickly ran out. His mother and elder brother could not stop him. Akmal quickly ran behind him. He had some buckets for water in his hands. When they reached the burning shop, Afdhal filled the buckets of water. A pipe was dragged from a nearby house. There was a big noise. The people could not hear what was going on. Akmal told Afdhal in his ear:

“You go home. Tomorrow is your examination. Go and prepare for it. I will see to the fire.”

Afdhal did not answer anything. He was too engrossed in putting off the fire. The people were running up and down throwing water onto the fire. The fire brigade also came. Soon the fire was brought under control. Afdhal’s hand got burned in the whole activity. He went to the doctor and got some ointment. Then he came back home. His mother screamed out when she saw his hand burnt.

“I stopped you, but you were too absorbed in putting off the fire.”

Afdhal did not say anything. He just stood there looking down. He could not write the exams. One of his friends asked him:

“You are indeed capable, but due to your hands been burned you were unable to write the exams. You must be very disheartened?”

Afdhal smiled and said: “It is fine I could not write the exams. This was a worldly examination. But I am confidant in Allaah Taala that he will make my hereafter examination easy for me. I am not so concerned of the worldly examination. I am more concerned of the hereafter examination.”

His friend was gripped by his statement.

MORAL: If our neighbours are in any sort of difficulty then we must help them. Allaah Taala becomes very pleased with such people who help His servants.

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## 65. A WRESTLING MATCH OUT OF THE ORDINARY

You must have seen people wrestling. Wrestling is a game and exercise to prove ones strength over the other. Those who are wrestling enthusiasts often organize fights

between great wrestlers. Thousands of people gather to watch these matches. People hit drums and it seems as if there is a fair in town. When a wrestler wins a match then the people celebrate and congratulate him. They place a medal around his neck. Then, they lift him up onto their shoulders and shower him with many gifts.

Today we tell you a story of a very strange type of a wrestling match, which took place a few centuries ago. It was not a wrestling match for people to celebrate and to be congratulated on. But it was such a match where the winner had a chance of going out to fight in the path of Allaah Taala. It was indeed a wrestling match out of the ordinary.

The incident was as follows: It was the 3rd of Shawaal and 3000 disbelievers of Makkah had gathered to attack Madinah. The Muslims had met them on a mountain called Uhud which was about two and a half miles away from Madinah. That is why this battle was named 'the battle of Uhud'. When Rasulullaah ρ left with the Muslims from Madinah many youth joined him to fight in the battle. Rasulullaah ρ often allowed only those youths who were fifteen years or older.

Amongst these youths were two youngsters who were friends of one another. Raafi Bin Khudayj τ was the name of the first youngster and Samurah Bin Jundub τ was the second youngster. Raafi Bin Khudayj τ had reached the age of fifteen and Rasulullaah ρ allowed him to fight. However Samurah Bin Jundub τ was only fourteen. Rasulullaah ρ told him to return to Madinah. Samurah Bin Jundub τ really had the desire to fight against the disbelievers. Upon listening to the commandment of Rasulullaah ρ he became very sad. After much thought and consideration, he came in the presence of Rasulullaah ρ and requested:

"O Messenger of Allaah! You have allowed my friend Raafi Bin Khudayj τ to fight in the battle, but I am stronger than him. If you do not believe me then I suggest you see for yourself and let me have a wrestling match with him."

Rasulullaah ρ noticed the zeal of Imaan this youngster had. So he allowed him to wrestle with his friend. Samurah was shorter than Raafi but surely he was stronger than him. Both of them wrestled and Samurah threw Raafi down quite a few times.

Upon seeing this, Rasulullaah ρ allowed him to be part of the army. He was overjoyed and really fought very well against the disbelievers. After the battle of Uhud Samurah Bin Jundub τ took part in all of the battles during the lifetime of Rasulullaah ρ and really fought bravely.

Samurah Bin Jundub τ loved Rasulullaah ρ very much. He listened very carefully and remembered everything that Rasulullaah ρ said. It is said about him that every little thing he done was in accordance with the manner of Rasulullaah ρ. He was truthful in his speech and placed Islaam first. He often related to the people the wonderful words of Rasulullaah ρ.

During the time of Umar Farooq τ, when Basrah was under development, he left Madinah and when to stay there. After some time he became the governor of Basrah. He passed away at the age of 66 in Basrah.

MORAL: It is very easy to fight in a wrestling match. But to fight with the intention of serving Islaam then SubhaanAllaah! What better could one say? Make the intention that one will always be prepared to serve the Deen and will never stay behind.

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## 66. VISITING

"Role number five… Usaamah Maalik… what! is Usaamah also absent today?... does anyone know why he did not come?"
"No teacher!"

As Miss Rabiah was asking about Usaamah a note came from the principal's office stating that he was sick for the past three days.

"This is a note stating that Usaamah is ill." Miss Rabiah told the children. Then she took the roll-call of the remaining children. Thereafter she told them to take out there books while she looks at the time table. Today before the break we have our drawing-period. The periods went by one after the other. The bell rang and the drawing-period began. Miss Rabiah told the children that today we will be making cards.

"But teacher! Making cards is not part of our syllabus."

"Yes, I know that. But our syllabus is almost complete. And today we will be making a card for Usaamah."

"For Usaamah! Why is it his birthday today?" one of the children asked innocently. Miss Rabiah smiled.

"No child! It is not necessary that we make cards only for birthdays. But, Usaamah is your friend and your classmate. He is ill. And when you make a colourful card and write in it your Duas, then he would become happy and you will be rewarded."

For example: "May Allaah Taala make you well and always keep you healthy etc etc."

Thereafter, Miss Rabiah very lovingly explained to the children, that whenever someone becomes ill then it is our duty to visit him. Our beloved Rasulullaah ρ has taught us about visiting the sick. Whenever a Sahabi became ill, then Rasulullaah ρ visited him and sat by him for a little while, consoling and making Dua for him.

Rasulullaah ρ says: "If we visit an ill person in the morning than the angels pray for our forgiveness until the evening and if we visit him in the evening then the angels pray for our forgiveness until the morning."

It is also our duty that whenever our close friends and relatives become ill or if we hear of any difficulty that befalls them then we should go and visit them. Because, it is also said in the Hadith: "Visit the sick and ask them to make Dua for you. For a sick person's Dua is just like the Dua of the angels. It is accepted."

Amongst the etiquettes of visiting the sick is that we must not sit for too long. And we must not make a noise at the sick person's bed. These things cause difficulty for the sick person. Instead of putting fear in the mind of the sick person - by talking about all the different diseases and illnesses - we must say encouraging things that would make the person feel comfortable.

The children listened attentatively to Miss Rabiah.

"Now come, let us quickly start with our work." Miss Rabiah taught them how to make cards. The children drew colourful clouds and flowers on the cards. Then during the break, Miss Rabiah asked the caretaker to bring a beautiful flower. She wrote on a small card: "Dear Usaamah! May you become well soon."

A few minutes before the end of the period, Miss Rabiah gathered all the cards with the little flowers and gave them to Haarith, who lived near Usaamah. And then she told the children: "Whoever lives near Usaamah should go and visit him and those who live far should telephone him." She also gave them his telephone number.

After fifteen days Usaamah came back to school. He was very pleased. His heart was filled with love and honour for his classmates and his teacher.

MORAL: Beloved children! We learn from this incident the following lesson: We should always ask about our classmates' well being. If someone is sad or in any type of difficulty, then we must assist him. And if someone is ill then we must make Dua for him and visit him. Or at least telephone to encourage him.

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## 67. THE ELEPHANT THAT HAD A STRANGE SENSE OF HONOUR

King Shah Zafar was the last King of the Moghul Empire. His servant, Zaheer Dehlawi notes in an autobiography of himself called 'Dastaane Gadr'. In it he has written an incident about a famous elephant 'Mawlaa Bakhsh'.

Mawlaa Bakhsh was an old elephant that transported many Kings in its lifetime. It had a strange kind of behaviour that was similar to humans. It was quite tall and the first of its kind ever seen like in the history of India. It was so tall that when it sat next to the other elephants that were standing, its height was equal to them. It never allowed just anyone to come near it. A day before the King would ride on it, a servant would come and call out to it: "Mawlaa Bakhsh! Tomorrow your services will be rendered. So be alert and ready." The elephant would prepare itself from then.

The moment the king entered its door, it would at once make a loud sound and get up. Until the King and his special people were not seated, the elephant never made a move. As soon as the King sat on it and his security gave the go ahead, the elephant would at once stand up.

In short, it would remain seated on its place until the King would come and ride on it. This is the type of elephant it was. When the royal elephant-house was taken over by

the English, then Mawlaa Bakhsh went on a hunger strike. It left eating and drinking, even a single sip of water.

The care-taker of the elephants alerted the person who was in charge about Mawlaa Bakhs. That it does not want to eat or drink anything. At first, the supervisor did not believe what the caretaker had to say about this strange elephant. So he reprimanded the caretaker and shouted at him saying: “I will go with you and feed the elephant myself.” He bought some sweetmeats and nibbling things and then went along with the caretaker to the elephant.

Mawlaa Bakhsh, the elephant pulled the basket with such force that if anyone was standing in front of it that person would die. The basket flew so high up that all the food that was in it spilled over. The supervisor said: “this elephant is an outlaw. It must be sold in an auction at once.”

Hence, Mawlaa Bakhsh, the old elephant was taken to the market and auctioned out. No one offered to buy it. Then finally a person, who sold salt and spices made an offer. The auctioneer accepted his offer and handed Mawlaa Bakhsh over saying: “here you go! All your life you served Kings. But now your fate has made you become the property of a salt-seller.”

Upon hearing this, the elephant caused itself to fall and it died.

MORAL: Imagine, if an elephant shows so much of love and loyalty towards its master, then why do we not create such a bond with Allaah Taala as well? And, when we see anything going against the wishes of Almighty Allaah Taala, then we should feel bad about it in our heart.

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## 68. I AM NOT A SLAVE

Once Abu Bakr τ went to Syria on a business trip and two Sahabis, Nuayman τ and Suwaybit τ were with him. Suwaybit τ was responsible for the food.

They stopped at a certain place and Abu Bakr τ went to do some work somewhere. Nuayman τ was feeling hungry. He said to Suwaybit τ: “I am feeling hungry. Give me something to eat.”

Suwaybit τ answered: “When Abu Bakr τ returns, then we will eat.”

Nuayman τ became angry. He thought that nearby there were some people with their animals. “Let me go to them and ask them:” “I have a very strong and sly slave with me. Does anyone of you wish to buy him?”

They replied: “Sure! We will buy him.”

Nuayman τ said: “But keep in mind that he is a bit talkative. He may tell you that he is not a slave. But do not believe him. If you do believe what he says then it is better that we do not transact the deal.”

They told him: “We would not pay any attention to what he says. Do not worry about that. And, we will not leave him.”

So they paid him the ten camels. Nuayman τ came with them to Suwaybit τ and as they came close to him Nuayman τ said to them: “This is the slave that I have sold to you.”

Suwaybit τ remarked in surprise: “Slave! What slave?”

The people advanced towards him and grabbed him. They tied him up with a rope. Suwaybit τ screamed out: “What is he saying? I am not a slave. I am free. He is giving you the wrong information. He is joking with me.”

They told him: “We knew from before that you were going to say this. We have bought you for ten camels. Now we will never leave you.”

He exclaimed: “Alas! I am not a slave. I am a free man. Believe me.”

They told him: “Never!” And then they dragged him by the rope.

Suwaybit τ was now frightened. He said to Nuayman τ: “Nuayman! Finish now, the joke is over. Tell them that I am a free man. In the future I will not refuse to give you food to eat.”

As he was saying this, Abu Bakr τ returned. When he saw the commotion he asked “What has happened?”

Suwaybit τ quickly told Abu Bakr τ the whole story. Abu Bakr τ smiled. And then he told them the truth. So they let him free and took back their ten camels.

Upon reaching Madinah they related the story to Rasulullaah ρ and the Sahabah. Rasulullaah ρ and the Sahabah had a good laugh.

MORAL: There is nothing wrong in joking around with our friends. However, we must ensure that it does not cause any difficulty to them.

Rasulullaah ρ also joked but it was limited to not causing any one any difficulty. If we joke with someone, then it must be in a good light. Do not joke in such a way that the next person is offended.

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## 69. FRIENDS WITH THE BIRDS

He was doing his work peacefully at the table, writing a book. That was his work… to author books. All of a sudden he heard some sounds. He looked up to see what it was. It was too little birds making a nest. They were chirping loudly to one another and little particles were falling down as they built their nest. Just as when people build their homes… The noise of the builders, such as: the mixing of the daga; - cement and sand - the moving of the bricks, and the working of the builders' cause much grief to people around. It disturbs their peace. So, in the same way these two birds disturbed his peace.

Wait for a moment! You will not enjoy the experience so easily. You must have seen little birds. These little creatures often build their nests on the roofs of people's homes. They fly about chirping. It is a wonderful experience. If one throws some grains of rice towards them, then they quickly come and get it. They even take some of the grains in their beaks for their little ones. You must have even tried to catch them some time. Whether you were successful or not, that's a different story. It is not a good thing to catch them. We should rather make friends with them. Come! Let us tell you a story about making friends with the little birds.

The person we were talking about was none other than Moulana Abul Kalaam Azad. He was a very learned and pious person. So, when he saw the birds building a nest on his roof and they had disturbed him he stood up and climbed up to the roof. And then, he cleaned up the mess that they were making whilst chasing them away.

The next day, again when he started doing his work at the same place the birds came to build their nest again and they started making a noise. Moulana Abul Kalaam Azad once again cleaned up their mess and chased them away. This incident happened with him for quite a few days thereafter. The birds would come and disturb his peace, and then he would chase them away. Eventually he got tired of chasing them away. But the birds did not get tired. They kept coming. He held his head in surrender and thought: "Why do I not rather just become friends with the birds."

So he took some grains of rice, threw it on the ground and carried on with his work quietly. A few hours had passed by but not a single bird had come to eat the grains of rice. As he was about to give up, he noticed a few birds sitting on the rooftop waiting. They were not coming down to eat the grains of rice, although it seemed as if they wanted to. They were frightened. Finally, one that seemed to be the bravest amongst them flew down. When the other birds saw that it was safe they too flew down and joined it in eating the rise grains.

Hence, from that day onwards Moulana Abul Kalaam Azad made it a point to daily throw some grains for the birds. After a few days, he even put some grains near the table right next to him. At first, the brave one was a bit hesitant but as it got used to him, it came closer to him. He gave it a name, Qalandar. The other birds followed Qalandar. After another few more days, he started throwing the rise grains even nearer. The same happened. Qalandar was a bit hesitant at first, but after a while it came closer and the other birds followed it.

Now, Moulana Abul Kalaam Azad was placing the rise grains right in front of him on his table. And, the birds were not afraid anymore to come right next to him. Then, he even went further to put the rise grain dish on his lap. And the birds would come to

eat from it right from his lap. Every time, it was Qalandar that made the first move to see whether it was safe. When the other birds saw it, then they also followed.

There was another bird that always followed Qalandar. Moulana Abul Kalaam Azad also gave it a name, Mooni. Qalandar and Mooni were the two birds that came first. Then the other birds followed. He started giving the other ones names too. One was named Balaa and another one was given the name Sooni and so on.

In this way, he made friends with the birds. They even sensed his feelings. Whenever he was busy writing his books, they stopped from making a noise and disturbing him. He also took out some time to play with them.

MORAL: To make friends with little birds is really fun. Just as the little birds are pretty, their company is also as pretty. It can be a parrot, a pigeon or even any other little bird. To throw food for them inculcates kindness in our hearts. But, remember! Don't ever try catching them. Otherwise, they will become frightened and not come close to you.

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## 70. THE MOUSE AND THE EAGLE

There was a merchant who had to go to another country for business purposes. He had about a seer of gold. He was concerned about its safety. So, he decided to leave it in the trust of one of his friends. He kept it away safely in a box and took it to his friend telling him: "I need to go to another country for some time; I would really appreciate it if you could keep this box with you. When I return, then I will take it back from you."

The friend took the box and the merchant left for his business trip.

After about five months the merchant returned. He went to his friend to get the box. The friend told him that the mice had eaten up the gold. He took false oaths, and made the merchant believe in what he was saying. The poor merchant was dumbfounded and returned home. Because he did not have any proof or any witness to bear him out.

After a few days the merchant thought of an idea. He invited his friend along with his wife and children. While they were eating, he somehow got hold of one of his friend's children and hid him away. After they ate, the friend noticed that one of his sons was missing. He became worried and searched all over the place for his child, but he could not find him anywhere. Finally, the merchant told his friend that an eagle had taken his son away.

The friend was puzzled. He exclaimed: "Do you think it is possible that an eagle is able to lift up such a big child and fly away with him? How dare you make such an impossible claim?"

The merchant said: "If it is possible for mice to eat up a seer of gold, then why is it not possible for an eagle to lift up a big child and fly away with him?"

Upon hearing this, the friend was ashamed of himself. He understood the logic behind the merchant's statement. Hence, he sought forgiveness from the merchant and returned the gold back to him. The merchant too returned his son back to him. The merchant regained his wealth by making an intelligent and wise move.

MORAL: Rasulullaah ρ said: a hypocrite has three signs:
1. When he speaks he tells lies.
2. He goes against his promises.
3. And, he betrays his trust.

Remember friends! Whenever you keep a trust, then never cheat in it by taking false oaths. Otherwise, just like the friend above, one will become ashamed of one's self. Hence, be trustworthy.

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## 71. HE WHO WINS-OVER THE HEARTS HAS INDEED CONQUERED THE WORLD

Banaan Hamaal τ was a pious person of the fourth century. He was originally from Baghdad but he stayed in Egypt. Both, the layman and the learned respected him. People naturally become inclined to those who are close to Allaah Taala. Such pious people win over the hearts of people.

Banaan Hamaal τ once advised something to the King of Egypt, Ibn Toloon. Who could not tolerate it and became angry. The King ordered that he should be taken to the lion's den and fed to them. (Man, in order to sooth his emotions often come up with strange ways to take revenge - The more severe the punishment; the better.) -

Hence, Banaan Hamaal τ was thrown to the lions. A lion charged towards him, but then it stopped in its tracks and smelt him. The onlookers were expecting the lion to rip his body apart. But when they saw that the lion was doing nothing to him, the guards took him away. The most amazing part of the incident was that when he was asked: "What went through your mind when the lion started smelling your body?"

He replied: "At that moment I was thinking about what the Fuqaha (jurists) had written about the saliva of wild animals. i.e. is it pure or is it impure?"

MORAL: Those who fear Allaah Ta'ala, do not fear His creation. We must also inculcate within ourselves the fear of Allaah Taala, rather than the fear of His creation, because Allaah Ta'ala is the greatest.

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## 72. DIGNITY

“Ayesha! Give me some water to drink.” Asma came from school and ordered little Ayesha. “Apa! Get up and fetch it yourself. I am busy playing right now.” Ayesha said with displeasure. “Are you going to or not? Leave your work!”

“Now I will never go, why are you telling me to leave my work?” Asma became angry with Ayesha’s stubbornness. She stood up quickly and scattered Ayesha toys. And then, she left the room.

Ayesha spent a long time setting up the toys. When she saw her effort destroyed she began to cry loudly. Hearing her cry, her mother entered the room. “What has happened? Ayesha?”

The same time her gaze fell on the toys, she understood the problem. Asma had left the room. That is why mother was forced to help Ayesha pack the toys right, so that she would stop crying.

“Ayesha my shoes are upstairs. Go up and fetch them.” Asma replied: “Ayesha! You fetch it. I am drinking milk. Go and fetch it yourself.” Ayesha said. And then, she ran to the kitchen.

Asma became angry. But there was no other help except that she had to fetch it herself. So, she got up and went upstairs.

“Apa! Apa Khala has come. She is calling you.” Ayesha told Asma. Asma who was lying down, got up immediately and ran to the dinning room and embraced aunt. Today she was very happy because Khala often gives her advice and she loved it very much.

After eating, Asma came to her. Ayesha was already there. And mother was also there. After some time mother left.

Asma asked her Khala to tell her a story. “Today, instead of a story I am going to tell you how to gain respect.”

Asma heard these words from her Khala’s mouth. She looked confused at her Khala. “Why? Do you not wish that people should respect you?” Asma shook her head and said: “Yes, why not? Who does not like that Khala?”

“Then listen! Today, I am going to show you to gain respect. This lesson will be for you for your entire life. And, as long as you will remember it you should practice on it. You will be liked by everyone. This is the rule. Whatever you can do, do it. Infact do it yourself. Whatever work you were relying on others to do. It is best that you do it yourself. For example: Your shoes. You must fetch your own shoes. Help with washing the clothes; ironing them; fetching your own water when you come from school; and all these little things. Do not rely on others to do it. Do them yourself with your own hands. Our beloved Nabi ρ also did his own work. The life of our Nabi is an example for us. For as long as we follow him, Insha Allaah we have hope of being successful in life. Follow this principal your whole life and show others as well.”

Asma felt shy and lowered her head. After a few days everyone in the house were confused, because Asma began doing her own work. In turn, Asma was also confused because now everyone respected her.

MORAL: Children! Surely you should also make a firm resolution to act Asma's Khala's words. That any work you can do yourself, do it. And, do it properly. Insha Allaah you will not tell others to do it for you. Infact, you will help in taking work off other people's hands.

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## 73. ABU QULAABAH τ

Abdullaah bin Muhammed Jihaadi was in the line to learn important matters. He lived in the coastal region of Egypt. Once he took a walk to the seaside. There he saw in a tent a man without hands and feet and he was deprived of eyesight. The only part of him that was healthy was his tongue. On the one side, this was his condition. And, on the other side, in a loud voice he was saying: "My Allaah! You have given me the ability to make Shukr for my blessings. You have granted me superiority and virtue over many others from your creation. Through this superiority grant me the ability to praise you."

When Abdullaah heard this Dua he was overwhelmed. A person who does not have hands and feet and is deprived of eyesight and there was no traces of real life in his body, yet he is still grateful for the blessings of Allaah Ta'ala. So, he went to him and made Salaam.

The he asked: "Hadhrat! For which blessings are you asking Allaah Ta'ala to grant you the ability to praise Him?"

The disabled man answered elegantly: "What do you know, how my Allaah is dealing with me? By the Qasam of Allaah! If he sends rain of fire from the sky, I will turn to ashes. If He commands the mountains to squash me; or orders the ocean to drown me; or commands the earth to swallow me, then what can I do? In my weak body, I see my tongue to be a very valuable blessing that is healthy. I will continue my whole life to make Shukr for this one blessing."

Then he said: "My one small son looks after me. I am helpless and completely dependant on him for all necessities of my life. But, he is missing for three days. I do not know where he is? If you could search for him, then it will be a kindness from you."

How fortunate and dignified it is to be of service to such a grateful, needy and patient person?

Abdullaah began searching in the jungle for the disabled man's son. He witnessed a frightening sight. Between two sand dunes, there was a young boy's corpse lying. The wild animals and wild birds were biting off from the corpse. It was the corpse of the disabled person's son. When he saw the innocent corpse, his eyes filled with tears. He started worrying, that how is he going to tell the helpless father of such a disaster.

So, he went to the disabled man and started having a long conversation with him. After much discussion, he informed him about the unfortunate incident that happened to his son. Who will not sob at his only son's death?

On hearing this, the father's eyes flowed with tears, when the heart is clouded with grief, then tears start pouring out from the eyes. This is also indeed a great blessing of Allaah Ta'ala, that grief is soothed by crying.

Instead of complaining, he began to say: "All praises are for that being, who did not create my child for his disobedience. And He has saved him from being the fuel for the fire of Jahannam."

Then he recited: "To Allaah do we belong and to Him is our return." With one loud scream, he surrendered his life over to the Creator.

Upon the sudden death of the disabled man, Abdullaah's endurance broke out and he started crying out loudly. The people came out, when they heard his crying. They went into the tent and lifted the cloth from the deceased's face. Then they wrapped him up. Some of them kissed his hands while others also started crying out loudly. They all exclaimed in one voice:

"May we be sacrificed for the eyes that have never looked at any stranger. May we be sacrificed for the body that has made Sajdah for the Rabb, while others were in comfort; and may we be sacrificed for the body that has never disobeyed Allaah Ta'ala."

When Abdullaah saw this, he was at ease. And then he asked: "Who was this man? And, what was his name?

The people said: "Do you not know him? This man was the true lover of Nabi ρ. And he was the student of Ibn Abaas τ. This person was none other than the famous Aalim of Hadeeth, Abu Qilaabah τ."

MORAL: Many people have passed through the world that have always remained thankful to Allaah Ta'ala. Allaah Ta'ala had blessed them in the hereafter.

When the smallest difficulty comes our way, then we immediately start making a fuss. If we act such, then who will have patience? We hope that we never leave the lap of Shukr and Sabr like these pious people.

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## 74. DECEPTION BLACKENS THE MOUTH

Qaadhi Ilyaas bin Muaawiyah RA was amongst the most intelligent judges in the time of Banu Umaiyya. He was a great Aalim and the government had appointed him the judge of Basrah.

Once, a person came to his court and claimed thus: “O Judge! I placed my trust in Allaah Ta’ala and left some wealth of mine with a certain person. But now, he refuses to return my money. He does not believe that I left my wealth by him. I am prepared to take an oath that I am speaking the truth, but I cannot bring any witnesses because, at the time when I had left the money by him, there were only the two of us present there.”

Qaadhi Ilyaas RA said: “Go quickly back to your house and do not mention to anybody that you came to me. When I call you then you come to me. When he went away, the judge called for the defendant. He made him sit next to him and with great love said to him: “Brother! I have a lot of wealth by me. It is very difficult for me to look after it. I wish to keep it by you because your house is safe and I have total trust in you.”

The man was happy and said: “O Judge! If you wish to leave your wealth by me, then by all means I will protect it properly.”

The judge said: “Look for a safe place in your house and tomorrow bring two workers with you so that they can help you carry my wealth.”

The man went away saying: “Very good.”

After he left, the judge called the other person who had claimed against the man and told him to go to him and ask him to return his wealth. And also, to warn him that if he does not return the money then he will make a claim in the court of Ilyaas RA.

So he went and did as the judge told him. The deceitful man immediately returned his wealth. Then he came back to the judge and showed him the money.

The next day, the deceitful man came with his workers to Qaadhi Ilyaas RA as per arrangement to take the judge’s wealth. The judge was furious and his face was red in anger. He shouted out: “O shameless one! How dare you take others’ wealth and refuse to return it?”

When he heard the judge’s words, he realized his folly. The Qaadhi warned him: “In the face of justice, in future if you ever do such a thing again! I will punish you severely!”

MORAL: Deception is a very bad habit. The one who deceives is regarded badly in the eyes of people. For this reason, if you have taken someone’s pen or notebook, then you must return it truthfully.

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## 75. THERE WAS A LAD

On the side of his bed was a clay lantern. The lad sat there reading in the lantern light about half the night had passed. He learnt from 2 to 3 o'clock. This was his daily habit.

Faaraab is a town in Turkistan. There lived a poor lad in one of the areas of this town. He had a great zeal for acquiring knowledge. During the day he learnt from his teacher and at night he memorized it. He would not sleep until he had memorized his entire lesson. Sometimes he spent the entire night engrossed in his studies. But one night a strange thing happened.

The light of his lantern suddenly became dim. He lifted the wick a little so that the light could brighten a little. But eventually it switched off. The oil was finished.

He became worried. Where was he going to find oil at this time of the night? All the shops were closed. And, if anybody did open for him, then where was he going to get money to pay for the oil? His only income was the money he received for teaching other children and from that money he would buy oil for his lantern and now his oil was finished before it normally would.

What should he do? He sat there thinking that it would be better if he put his books on his side and sleep away. But he needed to learn for two more hours. How could he waste two hours of his time? And then again he did not have money to purchase oil for the next day. He came up to the door and looked outside. The darkness of the night was spread out in all directions. In that darkness he saw a streak of light coming form a certain direction. He immediately ran in the direction of the light. On coming closer he found a candle in the hands of a guard.

With the greatest of respect he enquired: "If you could grant me permission to read my book in the candle light? The oil in my lantern is finished."

The guard immediately understood the poor lad who was seeking knowledge. So, he said: "No problem son! You may sit and read."

He started reading his book in the candle light, but there was one problem. The guard could not carry out his security checks by sitting in one place. It was his responsibility to roam around the areas that he was supposed to guard. So he told the lad: "Son! Go home and sleep now! I can not stand in one place the entire night."

The student said: "Do not worry; you carry on with your security checks… I will walk behind you reading my book."

The guard walked in front of him while he walked behind the guard. He continued reading his book under the light of the watchman's lantern. In this way, although it took a long time he showed no discouragement. He kept on studying until 4 o'clock.

After thanking the watchman he went home. On the second night the same thing happened. But on the third night when the lad came, the watchman said: "Aag!!! Take this lantern. I have another one." The lad considered it a great treasure.

Do you know who this youngster was?

It was none other than Abu Nasr Alfaraabi, a great scholar of Islaam. He was an expert in logic and philosophy. The world acknowledged his superiority. Over a thousand years have passed since his death, but his works are still known.

MORAL: My dear friends! To acquire knowledge is a great bounty of Allaah Ta'ala. For this reason, make a lot of effort in acquiring knowledge. You do not have to go through many difficulties like how Sheikh Abu Nasr Faraani had to go through. In today's times there is light, lamps, and fans. If we do not use these luxuries to our benefit, then how will we become something in life?

We have faith that after you read this you will make extra effort in acquiring knowledge.

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## 76. FOUR YOUNGSTERS

Four youngsters gathered in the Jamia Masjid of Egypt. They all came to study. After meeting one another, they were quite amazed. They all shared the same name. Ones name was Mohammed Bin Jareer. The second one was Mohammed Bin Ishaaq. The third one was Mohammed Bin Nasr. And, the fourth one was Mohammed Bin Haroon. They all exclaimed together: "SubahanAllaah!!!" that they all shared the same name and they all had gathered for the same purpose.

They studied Hadith during the day, and in the evening they took their notes home.

One day, one of them said: "Brothers! Our savings are about to finish. It is not a problem. We will work."

The second one said: "I have no problem working. But then, how will we learn Hadith."

The third one said: "In that case, we will all become businessmen."

The fourth said: "Then let's work in this manner. That we will take turns to work. One of us will earn during the day while the other three are studying. We should draw lots and whoever's name is drawn, he must work for the whole day. In the evening, he will learn Hadith from the rest of us."

So, they drew lots and Mohammed Bin Ishaaq's name was drawn.

He said: "Let me make Itsikhaarah (consult with my Rabb) first."

As he started his Salaah, they heard a voice from outside: "Is this the house?" Someone said: "Yes! It is the same house."

On hearing the voices, the young boys were frightened, because at that time of the night the whole city is fast asleep. Who could it be outside?

“Asalamu alaykum! May we enter? We are the messengers of the king.”

They replied in one voice: “Wa Alaykumus Salaam! “You are most welcome.”

Mohammed Bin Haroon opened the door. There were a few of them. In their hands they had candles as torches. On their faces they looked like people of great intelligence. One of them asked: “Who is Mohammed Bin Jareer?”

“Yes, it is me.” Came the reply.

“These 5 bags of 100 Dinars each are for you.”

After that, the messengers asked: “And, who is Mohammed Bin Nasr?” They also gave him a bag.

Then they asked: “Who is Mohammed Bin Ishaaq?”

Mohammed Bin Nasr told them: “He is performing Salaah.”

“This bag is for him.”

The four of them were quite amazed at what had just happened. The messengers told them: “The king of Egypt had a dream yesterday afternoon. He saw a person telling him that four students with the names of Mohammed are in discomfort due to their hunger, while you are having a peaceful sleep!!!”

“When the king awoke, he ordered us to search for you and to give you these bags as a gift from his side. The king has also made a pledge, that when these bags of money gets finished then you must let him know so that he may send some more.”

The king’s messengers conveyed this and left. However, the students did not stay in Egypt. They left for other places so that they do not become deprived of knowledge by falling prey to worldly wealth.

MORAL: The person who seeks knowledge for the sake of Allaah Ta’ala will be assisted in every aspect, and will be given the opportunity to serve the Deen. Therefore, seek knowledge only for the pleasure of Allaah Ta’ala as the four youngsters did.

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## 77. THE STORY OF A PIOUS PERSON

There was once a pious person who lived in the jungle. He had a donkey on which he loaded his goods; a security dog to take care of his home and a hen to wake him up every morning.

One day, it happened such that a fox came and ate up the hen. His wife started crying. The pious person said while consoling her: “Do not cry! Good will come out of this.”

Then, a wolf came and killed his donkey. His wife was awfully upset once again. The pious person consoled her and repeated the same. “Do not cry! Good will come out of this.”

Then, all of a sudden his dog died. This added to his wife’s disappointment. But, the pious person consoled her again: “Do not cry! Good will come out of this.”

The next morning, a group of gangsters came to the village and looted every home besides the pious person’s and his wife. It was the barking of the dog; the braying of the donkey; and the clucking of the hen that navigated the enemy towards the homes of the village.

After everything settled down, the pious person turned to his wife and said: “It was these animals that became the means of obliteration for the people. Luckily, our animals had died. Otherwise, today we would have also been attacked.”

MORAL: The Nabi ρ said: “When Allaah Ta’ala loves a people he involves them in problems to examine them. Therefore, the one who makes Sabr (patience) will be rewarded for his patience, and the one who does not make Sabr, will be compensated for his impatience.”

Beloved children! If any of your things get lost or destroyed, do not become disappointed. Because, it is possible that by the same object you may have gotten into some difficulty. Perhaps Allaah Ta’ala wants to grant you something better and He wants to reward you for your patience.

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## 78. FROM THE HEAVEN COMES THE RESPONSE OF THE LAMENTING ONE

A Sahabi, Abu Muallaq τ, was most of the time journeying from place to place for the purpose of business.

Once he was out on one of his business trips and a robber approached him and said: “Give me all of your wealth and also I will kill you.”

Abu Muallaq τ said to him: “What will you get out of killing me, just take my wealth.” The robber did not pay any attention to him and said: “I want to kill you too.”

The Sahabi said: “Let me pray four Rakaats.” The robber gave him the permission. The Sahabi offered four Rakaats and in his last Sajdah he prayed thus: (The Dua of a person who is in trouble goes directly through the skies.) “O! the One who loves; The Most affectionate One; The Eminent One; The Master of the throne; The One who controls His own will; I beseech you by means of Your Honour, the like of which cannot be fathomed; and by the means of that kingdom and empire do I ask; through the medium of that light which has illuminated the pillars of your Throne; that You protect me from the evil of this robber. O! The One who helps, help me; O! The One who aids, aid me; O! The One who assists, assist me.”

While he was making this Dua, all of a sudden a horseman, with a spear in his hand appeared and killed the robber. Then, he called out to the prostrating Sahabi saying: “Lift up your head.”

The Sahabi lifted his head and saw that the robber was laying there dead. He asked: “Who are you?”

The horseman replied: “I am an angel from the fourth heaven. When you prayed the first time, I heard the sound of the opening of the door of the heaven’s doors. When you prayed for the second time, then I heard the shouts of the dwellers of heaven; and when you prayed for the third time, then I was told that this was the cry of someone in great difficulty. So I requested Allaah Ta’ala to grant me permission to kill the oppressor. Allaah Ta’ala accepted my request and then I came to your rescue.

MORAL: Allaah Ta’ala loves it very much when His servants beseech Him. Therefore, whenever a difficulty falls upon us, then we must beseech Allaah Ta’ala immediately. Make your connection with Allaah Ta’ala such that your heart and body focuses on Him in all works.

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## 79. CONDUCT THAT KINDLED THE SPARK OF FAITH.

This is the story of a Muslim soldier who, by means of his true faith in Allaah, enlightened the lantern of Imaan in the heart of a hard–hearted English Major.

After becoming a Major, he was given a post in India, in the district of Atak.

One day, after returning from the parade as he was occupied with some work in the office, he saw an Indian soldier being punished. The soldier was made to run on the field with bricks tied onto his back. The weight of the bricks made him run slow. The warden was whipping him from the back to make him run swiftly. This continued for over an hour. The major was bewildered at the courage of the soldier. He ordered the warden to halt, and gave the soldier some time to rest. The Indian soldier quickly ran towards the water, washed both his hands, faced towards the west and engaged in Salaah on the scorching sand.

After completing his Salaah, he was about to raise his hands in Dua that the warden came back (like the angel of death) and made him run again in the field. The Major interceded on his behalf that his punishment must be cancelled.

Thereafter, the Major called the Indian soldier and asked: “Do you not get thirsty in this severe heat?”

The soldier replied: “I am a Muslim and I obey the commands of Allaah. This is the month of Ramadhaan and fasting is a pillar of Islaam. Hence, I am fasting. Eating and drinking is forbidden for me until the evening.”

The Major said: “In such great heat if you drink just two sips of water, then who will see you?”

The soldier replied: “Even if no one seems to be looking, but the One who created me is surely watching me.”

The Major said: “You were given a break in between… You should have rested during that time.”

The soldier then said: “The greatest and most important form of worship for a believer is Salaah. And, Salaah must be fulfilled on time. The time was very little. If I had to sit down to rest, then the time of Salaah would have expired; and Salaah would then become Qadha. And, then Allaah would become displeased with me.”

These words really touched the Major. He just sat there silently drowned in thoughts. Thereafter, he got up and left the office. He went straight to the Masjid and accepted Islaam at the hands of the Imam.

MORAL: We should ponder over this action of the Muslim soldier. Take benefit from the mercy in such a way that we should obey and uphold all that which Allaah and his messenger, Mohammed ρ have said. Every good action of a Muslim invites and calls a disbeliever towards the path of guidance.

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## 80. THE GOOD ELDER SISTER

“I will not let you go!” My elder sister screamed at me angrily. She held her shoes and was running after me, and somehow she could not catch me.

“I am a horse!” I mocked at my elder sister with a giggle. Furiously she threw the shoes, which she was holding in her hands at me. I quickly went down so the shoes went pass my head and missed me. “hahaha!” I laughed out loudly.

In fury, my elder sister left me and went to her room. But before she went I noticed tears in her eyes. Then I went to my room and then from underneath my pillow I pulled out a shining glittering pen, which was the reason for the fight a little while ago. This was my habit. I troubled my sister sometimes. I hid away her books etc.

Today my sister was sitting in her room and doing her home work. My mother called her so she got up and left the room.

Quickly, I went into her room and picked up her new pen. And, then I ran away. I took her pen and hid it away. When she asked me for it, I refused to own up. But from my laughter she knew that I hid the pen away. She attempted to search me but I got up and ran away. The pen was now with me and I had placed it in my pencil case. I asked mum’s permission and went to Ahmed’s house.

When I entered his house, I saw a huge dog. It looked at me and began to bark. It tried to brake off the chains. I was stuck in fear. Luckily, Ahmed came to my rescue. I

would have probably run away the same time. He chased the dog away and came towards me.

I thought he would be the same towards me, but he was good. “When did you come?” He asked as he embraced me.

“I just came now.” I said. As I uttered these words all of a sudden I heard a scream of a trembling loud and angry voice. “Ahmed! Where have you gone? I told you to get me a book form the market.”

Ahmed had just heard the voice and his mouth hung open. “This is not good for me. Come! And have a seat in the dining room. I am just going to get the book. I wont be long.” He said to me hastily and left the room.

His elder sister came out of the room and asked: “Ahmed! Have you brought the book?”

“Yes sister” Ahmed replied obediently and gave the book to his elder sister. She took the book and went to her room. Ahmed came to the drawing room and the two of us set down and began to converse. Shortly after that the door of the drawing room opened and Ahmed’s elder sister angrily entered the room.

“I asked you to bring a different book.” She slapped him staring at him in his face. Then she walked out of the room. Ahmed placed his hand on his cheek and started crying.

“O Goodness! It was not your fault at all. Out of your kindness you brought her the book. She has wrongfully hit you.” I said in confusion.

Within the depths of my heart I was extremely embarrassed of myself that my sister is so good and I bother her unnecessarily. After a while, I asked Ahmed permission and returned home. As soon as I returned, I headed straight for my sisters room. I went to my sister and while crying said to her: “Sister! Please forgive me?
“Forgive you? For what? Why? Why are you crying?” My sister asked in confusion.

I related the entire incident to her and said: “Sister! Today, I realized how good you are. In future I will never bother you.” I said as I hugged her. Then suddenly I thought of Ahmed: “But sister! What will happen to Ahmed?”

“Tomorrow I will go to his elder sister and I will explain to her that to become angry is not good.” She told me.

“O my brother! Wipe off your tears. Good boys do not cry.” She said. Tears filled my eyes but these were tears of joy.

MORAL: Do you also bother your elder brother / sister?

If you do, then be just like the little boy who sincerely asked for forgiveness and in future promise yourself not to bother her again. Nabi ρ has said: “Do not fight with

your brother and do not mock at him. Tease him in such a manner that would not harm him and do not make promises that you cannot fulfil."

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## 81. BRAVERY

Before accepting Islaam, one day Umar τ became very angry and intended to kill Nabi ρ. He pulled out his sword and left with this intention. By the will of Allaah, a Sahabi by the name of Nu'aim τ met Umar τ on the way. He asked: "O Umar! Are you all right? Where are you going?

Umar τ replied: "I am going to kill Mohammed ρ."

Nu'aim τ said: "First go and find out what is happening in your own household. Your brother-in-law and sister both have embraced Islaam."

Umar τ was outraged when he heard this. He became restless out of anger; and immediately went to his sister house. She was reciting the Noble Quran loudly. When she heard Umar τ's voice, she kept quiet and hid away the pages of the Quran. As soon has he entered, he enquired: "What are you reciting?"

She responded: "Nothing."

Umar τ said: "I have already been informed that the two of you have embraced Islaam."

He began beating up his brother in law. His sister came forward to save her husband but got hurt in the quarrel.

Finally the sister uttered while crying out: "O Umar! Even if you kill us Islaam will never leave our hearts."

Her words had such an effect on his heart that he calmed down and said: "Alright then! Let me hear the words which you were reciting."

After listening to just a few verses his attitude changed. How strange? The person who was extremely harsh and violent towards those who even mentioned or took the name of Islaam has now himself become inclined towards Islaam.

At that very moment Umar τ went to Nabi ρ. His sword was still in his hand. He knocked on the door. The Sahabah became frightened. Hamza τ said: "Allow him to come in. There is nothing to worry about. If he comes with good intentions then well for him, otherwise I will slay his neck with his own sword."

Umar τ entered and Nabi ρ advanced towards him grabbing hold of Umar τ's collar. He asked: "What has brought you here? Why have you come?"

At that moment Umar τ was struck with such awe that he began to shiver and with extreme politeness he said: “I have come to accept Islaam.”
Nabi ρ said: “Allaahu Akbr and all the Sahabah shouted out the slogans of Takbeer. It was so loud that the mountains of Makkah began to roar.

After he embraced Islaam, Muslims gained much strength. The Muslims who read Salaah secretly before, now read in the open. Umar τ took all the Muslims to the Kabah and performed Salaah openly.

MORAL: Allaah has placed such a strange effect in the Quran that whenever a person listens to its words he becomes attracted to it. And, what more could one say when Allaah grants such ability?

A brave and courageous person like Umar τ used his bravery and courage for the sake of Islaam. And, he regarded it an honour to be successful in both the worlds.

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## 82. SUPPLICATE ALLAAH

There was a cat and an owl living in a jungle. The name of the owl was “Doh Doh” and the cat was called “Tommy”. They were both very close friends. The King of the jungle was a lion, who had a very soft heart and preferred to work with justice. All the animals in the jungle lived their life full of happiness and peace.

One Year, it so happened that there was intense heat and no sign of rain, the jungles around them were receiving abundant rain. All the animals living in the jungle were in great difficulty.

So, one day they all said to the owl “Doh Doh,” you and your companions go to that jungle and tell the rain, that it should also come to our jungle, so that this heat wave can come to an end. Doh Doh left instantly to the other jungle and told the rain “Why do you not come to our jungle?”

The rain replied: “Wherever there are clouds, I will also be there. Go and tell it to the clouds. So, the owl went to the clouds and told the clouds: “Please go to our jungle as there is a severe heat wave there.”

The clouds said: “We do not travel at our own choice. We follow the wind. So, go and tell this to the wind.”

The owl went to the wind and said: “Please bring the clouds to our jungle. All the animals are waiting for it to rain.”

The wind responded by saying: “I do not travel at my own choice. I travel the way the sun goes. Go and ask the sun.”

On hearing this, Dho Dho got scared, and became worried. “The sun is extremely far away from here! How will I get the message to the sun?

After a little thought, the wind said: “Go and look for the tallest and biggest tree in your jungle, and at the tree dig under the ground. You will find a ring there. Then hang the ring around your neck and close your eyes. At that moment you will reach the sun, and the heat of the sun will not effect you.”

So, Dho Dho expressed his gratitude and rushed to his jungle. Upon arrival, he called all the animals and they searched for the biggest tree. On digging by the tree he found the ring by means of a thread. Then Dho Dho hung the ring on his neck, and closed his eyes. After a little while, he opened his eyes and found himself standing in front of the sun. Dho Dho explained to the sun the reason why he came. The sun said: “In this situation, I do not have any control. All activities are carried out by the commandments of Allaah (SWT). Hence, I also carry out the command of Allaah and everything happens only through His commandments. Go to Allaah (SWT) and supplicate to Him. Surely, he will shower rain on your jungle.”

The owl returned to the jungle and told the animals what the sun had told it. So, they began making Dua and beseeching Allaah Ta’ala. After some time, clouds could be seen appearing in the sky and heavy rains came down. The animals were very happy and bestowed the owl with many gifts. The owl’s friend -the cat, Tommy - also received a gift because it was the one to convince its friend, the owl to go out and do something about the drought.

All the animals expressed their gratitude to Allaah (SWT) for sending the rain.

MORAL: Allaah (SWT) has created us, our parents and all the human beings. Our needs are all fulfilled by the commandment of Allaah (SWT). So, why do we turn elsewhere for our needs? We should directly turn to Allaah (SWT) and ask for all of our needs. Allaah will become extremely happy with us.

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## 83. WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE ARE GRATEFUL

Muzammil was a new boy in town. He was short in stature with a pimply face. All the children disliked him because of his ugliness. The children would run away from him when he tried to make friends with them. Muzammil would fume in his heart and complain to Allaah Taala that why is he so short and disliked by everyone?

Then one day, he went to the Masjid for Jumuah and the Imam was giving a lecture. The Imam explained the importance of showing gratitude to Allaah Taala. Allaah Taala loves those who are grateful. When we see in others in a good condition then we must not become envious and burn in our hearts. Rather, we must be grateful to Allaah Taala for all that he has bestowed upon us.

The Imam gave an example of Sheikh Sadi RA. That one day after praying Salaah in the Masjid, Sheikh Sadi RA was walking home. That day he did not have any shoes to wear. So he was walking barefooted. The thorns and stones on the road were hurting him. He complained to Allaah Taala that he does not even have any shoes to wear. As he was walking he noticed a person who did not have any legs. And he was dragging himself along the road.

Upon seeing this situation, Sheikh Sadi RA immediately sought forgiveness from Allaah Taala and thought: “If I do not have any shoes to wear, then what about this person who does not even have legs to walk with? Thanks to Allaah Taala who has at least given me legs.”

The Imam’s lecture had a great effect on Muzammil and at once he thanked Allaah Taala: “There’s nothing wrong in my short stature and pimply face. Allaah Taala has given me legs to walk with. He has given me eyes to see with. These are worthy blessings. He made a resolution that despite the children disliking him he will still make friends with them. He made a lot of Dua to Allaah Taala. His heart began feeling at ease. He began remembering Allaah Taala silently at nights and at Fajr time.

Now his face was lit up with happiness. He kept on smiling. He was not afraid of meeting anyone. He would greet first and talk with confidence. And he would share the grievances of everyone. The result of this new attitude was thus that the children who disliked him started coming closer to him and making friends with him. They were quite impressed at his character.

Now Muzammil truly understood the meaning of the verse of the noble Quran which he hears in every Jumuah Khutbah: “Remember me and I will remember you. Be grateful to me and do not be ungrateful.”

MORAL: Allaah Taala has given us the blessing of life. We must inculcate the habit of thanking Him. And also keep in mind the numerous blessings that we enjoy. Always look at those who do not have. This way we will abstain from being ungrateful. Always recall these words: “O Allaah! May countless thanks be upon You for Your tremendous blessings and for protecting me from difficulties. If our character is good then people will be good to us too.

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## 84. SHOWING THANKS TO ALLAAH

Khaleel and Akhtar had two close friends, they attended a government school. Both of them were very intelligent and always achieved the highest marks in class. They were also very good hearted and pious. However, Khaleel had a bad habit that he found fault in everything and he was unfaithful to Allaah Taala. When it was cold, then he would complain to Allaah Taala that “Why have you made the weather so cold?” and when it was hot, then he complained to Allaah Taala that: “Why have you made the weather so hot?” In short, he was never happy with any of the four seasons, whether it was winter, summer, autumn or spring. Akhtar often explained to him to be grateful to Allaah Taala. But, Khaleel never took heed to any of his advises.

Khaleel and Akhtar’s examination had begun. Tomorrow would be there Mathematic paper. It was raining very much. Khaleel came to Akhtar’s house to study. And as was his habit he was complaining about the rain.

They studied until late at night. So Khaleel slept over. Because of his tiredness he woke up late in the morning. Quickly, he got ready. Both of them took their bicycles

and rode to school. Akhtar was taking his time riding, but Khaleel was in a hurry. He started riding fast. However, due to the rains the road was slippery and his bicycle slipped. He got hurt. Akhtar rushed him to the hospital. Because of this, both of them did not write the paper. They were sad as this time they were unable to achieve high marks. Khaleel was blaming the rain.

The next morning when Akhtar picked up the newspaper, he was amazed to read the news headlines: “due to the rains, the weak roofing of the examination hall in Haderabad’s school had fallen. Many of the pupils were injured.”

He told Khaleel of the news and went to see his other friends.

Khaleel thought to himself: “Certainly, we must be grateful to Allaah Taala for all conditions. He does everything through his wisdom.”

From that day onwards Khaleel always thanked Allaah Taala for everything.

MORAL: We must not be angry at the decision of Allaah Taala. We do not know if Allaah Taala is pleased with our action. Therefore we should always seek the pleasure of Allaah Taala. And do not become angry at conditions.

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## 85. THE PUNISHMENT FOR BIENG UNGRATEFUL

A rich man once lived in a certain town. Allaah Ta’ala enriched him abundantly. From his income he spent freely on the poor and the destitute. When he passed away his sons possessed all of his wealth and riches.

Amongst his riches was a huge garden wherein there were many trees, and it was filled with green plantations. The sons were miserly at heart.

When the fruits of the garden ripened, the sons consulted with each other: “That our father distributed unnecessarily a large portion of his wealth to the poor and the needy. Hence, we should not do the same.”

So they resolved that, early the next morning they would go out to the garden and pick all of the fruit. They did not even say: “Insha Allaah! If Allaah wills.”

That night while they were sleeping a punishment of Allaah afflicted the garden. Allaah knows best whether this punishment was a hurricane or rain or hail. The entire orchard was destroyed.

In the morning, the brothers woke up one another early to pick the fruit. While they were going, they said that: “today, no poor person should come to our garden.” They made a firm resolution not give anything to the poor. They were going to keep all the fruit for themselves. But, when they came to the garden they saw total destruction of their crops. They said to one another: “It cannot be! We must have lost our way.”

They looked properly in all directions and realized: “Never! We have not forgotten the way. This is our garden and whatever it had, has been snatched away from us.”

The intelligent one amongst them said: “Did I not tell you to show gratitude to Allaah for His blessing?”

The brothers called out loudly: “Our Rabb is pure. He is our cherisher and we are definitely sinful.”

They began to lament to each other. Finally they said: “How unfortunate for us? Perhaps our Rabb will grant us a better garden than this one. Let us raise our hands out towards our Rabb.”

MORAL: Did you know that to help someone and inquire about their health was from the beautiful habit of our Beloved Nabi ρ. By reading this story, we learn the very same lesson that we should assist others and not refuse anyone so that Allaah does not become displeased with us.

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## 86. STRANGE PEOPLE

After the drowning of Firoun, Musa υ intended to enter Palestine. He addressed his nation saying: “O my brothers! All of you are aware of the favours and bounties Allaah has showered upon you. Be thankful to Him, when he saved you from the oppression of Firoun and raised amongst you a Nabi. Allaah has written for you the leadership of his country and do not ever turn your back and flea when combating the enemy.”

The children of Israeel said: “O Musa! A very stubborn nation dwells in that city. So long as they reside there, we will not enter it. If it is necessary for you to fight, then we will sit here. Both, you and Your Rabb, Should go out and fight.”

Their disobedience incurred the displeasure of Allaah and so he sent upon them such a punishment. That for 40 years the Country failed to fall into their fate and for this amount of time, they continued to roam the desert of Egypt. Hunger and heat began to cause them great difficulty. Musa υ invoked Allaah for mercy, Allaah answered the supplication of Musa υ and sent a cloud to shade them and protect them from the heat. And then, Allaah bestowed upon them “Manna and Salwa” as a source of sustenance.

They then requested from Musa υ that he make some arrangements for water, so Musa υ struck his staff upon a rock from which 12 springs began to flow.

Even then, the children of Israeel were not satisfied and did not value the ‘Manna and Salwa’. After some time they complained to Musa υ saying: “We cannot continue eating only one type of food. You should ask Allaah that he grows for us from the earth soup, cucumbers, wheat, grain and onions.”

Musa υ said: “Why do you leave the better things in exchange for insignificant things? If you wish for such things then conquer a city and settle there.”
Despite this, the children of Israeel were strange people who did not follow what their Ambiyaa preached and they denied the signs of Allaah. Ultimately Allaah punished them in such a way that they will always be disgraced and in need of others.

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## 87. ENTHUSIASM

A Qaari in Bhopal yearned to go for Hajj. His passion grew so much that he became restless. He only had 1 rupee in his pocket, which in today’s times is equivalent to 100 or 150 rupees. With this he intended to go for Hajj. He got a bag stitched which cost him four ‘piases.’ By filling a bag with peas and some grains cost him twelve ‘piases.’ And then he set out carrying a jug and a glass for water. He left for Bombay from Bhopal on foot. While he was travelling, if someone invited him for meals, then he accepted; otherwise he ate the peas and grains that he had with him. In this way he reached Bombay.

At that time, the journey for Hajj was only possible by means of travelling in ships, which departed from the Port of Bombay. The ship was prepared to leave for Jeddah. He had no money to purchase a ticket. He approached the captain and said: “I am yearning to go for Haj, but I have no money to buy a ticket, do you have any job for me on the ship, through which I may reach Makkah?”

The captain replied: “Yes, there is a job, but it is not suitable for you, you are a pious man; and the job is filthy.”

The Qari Saheb said: “I do not care about that. Whatever job it is I will accept it.”

The captain said: “The task is difficult, and you will not manage to do it.”

The Qari Saheb said: “No matter how difficult it may be I shall do it.”

The captain replied: “This sack that is filled with grain. If you carry it, I will employ you.”

The Qari Saheb made Dua: “O Allaah! Until now it was my capability, as for the remaining matter I hand it over to you. Grant me the strength to lift this sack.”

After the completion of the Dua he recited Bismillah. He lifted the sack and took it right above his head. The captain was surprised and pleased. He patted the man on his back and said: “This is the job. Daily, you must draw water from the ocean and provide it on the deck of the ship and in all the washrooms and toilets. And, keep them clean.”

The Qari Saheb accepted the job. He tied his loincloth and started off at once. When the time of Salaah approached, he took a Ghusl bath and changed his clothing. At night he recited the Noble Quran with Qiraat in Tahajjud. He had a very melodious voice. One night, the captain came to the deck to check on him. He found the Qari

Saheb reciting the Quran. It was so beautiful that he stood there listening. It had a great effect on his heart. After Salaah he asked the Qari Saheb: “What was that you were reciting?”

The Qari Saheb replied: “This is the Quran, it is the speech of Allaah Ta’ala.”

The captain said: “Teach it to me too?”

The Qari Saheb said: “The condition is that you must first take a bath and then wear clean clothing.”

He did all of the above and arrived. The Qari Saheb taught him to recite Laillaha IlAllaah and there after Kul huwalahu ahad. The captain was very happy and recited this wherever he went. The other Non Muslim fishermen started to ask him: “Have you become a Muslim?”

He replied: “No, my worker has taught me this.”

The people also started asking him: “Have you become a Muslim?”

So the captain went to the Qari Saheb and asked him: “Have I become a Muslim?”

He replied: “Yes indeed, quite a few days before you had become a Muslim.”

Upon hearing this, the captain shrieked out: “Well! Since I have become a Muslim, let me then remain one.”

Thereafter he told his wife: “I have become a Muslim. If you want to stay with me, then you too should accept Islaam. Otherwise, you may leave me.” She refused and left him.

When the ship reached Jeddah, and the Qari Saheb was getting off the ship, the captain wrote a notice and gave it to his assistant, the next in command telling him: “give this notice to the shipping company and you take over from here. I am going for Hajj.”

So along he went with the Qari Saheb for Haj. He helped the Qari Saheb every step of the way. He also shared his meals with the Qari Saheb until both of them arrived in Madinah. In this way, a pious servant – through his enthusiasm – had reached his abode. Not only did he reach there himself, but a non Muslim was also guided to the straight path.

MORAL: Those whose intentions are clear; whose enthusiasm is great; character is good; and whose sights are on Allaah Taala, then He helps them and guides them to the correct path.

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## 88. AN UNUSUAL INCIDENT

Two people were on their death bed. One was a Muslim and the other one was a Jew.

The Jew wished to eat some fish, but there weren't any available nearby. While the Muslim wished to have some Olive Oil.

So, Allaah Taala called two angels. He said to the one angel: "There is a certain Jew who is on his deathbed and he wishes to eat some fish. Take some fish to him and present it to him so that he may fulfil his desire."

Then Allaah Taala said to the other angel: "There's a certain Muslim who is on his deathbed and he wishes to drink some olive oil. There is some olive oil in his cabinet. Go to the cabinet and drop off the olive oil so that he may not fulfil his desire."

So, both the angels went to fulfil their duty. On the way they met one another and spoke about their duties. The first angel said: "I have been commanded to give some fish to the dying Jew." The other angel said: "I have been commanded to spill over the olive oil of the dying Muslim." Both of these commandments seemed very strange to them, but because it was the command of Allaah Taala they fulfilled it.

After fulfilling their tasks they returned to Allaah Taala and asked Him: "O Allaah! We have fulfilled Your commandment. However, explain to us the reason why your order has been so contradictory?"

Allaah Taala replied: "There is always some wisdom behind my commandments. No one knows about it besides me. In fact I deal differently with non Muslims and my decision for Muslims is different. As for the disbelievers, since they also do good deeds in this world: e.g. they give in charity; help the poor and needy; etc. These actions are not accepted from them by Me in the hereafter. That is why I reward and compensate them for their good actions already in this world, so that when they come to Me in the hereafter they have been paid. And, as for the Believers, I wish that they pay for their sins already in the world, so that when they come to me in the hereafter they are clean and pure."

"Hence, all the good deeds that the Jew had done in this world were paid for besides one. He was about to die. So I compensated for that deed by fulfilling his wish of eating fish."

"And, as for the Muslim who was dying, he had paid for all of his sins, but there was just one sin left which he did not pay for. If he had to die in that condition, then it would have been written in his book of deeds and he would have come to Me in an impure state. That is why I punished him in this world.

MORAL: If our wishes are not fulfilled in this world then we must not complain to Allaah Taala. Instead we must consider it a blessing, because Allaah Taala is keeping it in store for us in the hereafter.

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## 89. HE LOVED JUST THE ONE ACTION OF HIS BELOVED

Imam Abu Dawood RA was once travelling on a ship. There was a person on the bank of the river who had sneezed. The person said: "Alhamdulillah!" (When someone sneezes, then we must reply by saying 'YarhamukAllaah'. This is a Sunnah and also the right of a Muslim.)

Anyway, the ship had moved on before Imam Abu Dawood RA could reply to the man's sneezing. So, he hired another ferry for one Dirham and returned to the place where the man was standing on the bank of the river. He said to him: "YarhamukAllaah" and the person replied by saying: "Yahdeekumullah".

Thereafter, Imam Abu Dawood RA returned to the ship. His co-travellers asked him: "why did you undergo so much of difficulty?"

He replied: "I thought to myself that perhaps the person may be a 'Mustajaabud Dawaat' (one whose prayers are accepted.) And, by me saying 'YarhamukAllaah' the person replied by saying: 'Yahdeekumullah'. This is indeed a Dua. If he makes such a Dua for me then how great and fortunate I would become. That is why I took a ferry and went back to the man."

It is said that when all the travellers of the ship went to sleep at night, they heard a voice from the unseen announcing: "O travellers of the ship! Abu Dawood has purchased Jannah in lieu of just one Dirham."

MORAL: No matter how insignificant a good deed may seem to be, never let go of it. Like Imam Abu Dawood RA, we must also reply to the sneezes of the next Muslim. When someone says: 'Alhamdulillah' then reply by saying: 'YarhamukAllaah'. In this way, we will be acting on a Sunnah and receiving tremendous of rewards too.

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## 90. KHALIFA MAHDI AND THE FARMER

One day, Khalifa Mahdi was out somewhere hunting. All of a sudden his horse broke away from him and ran into the tent of a villager. Khalifa Mahdi followed it and entered the tent. He asked the owner of the tent, A Farmer: "do you have something for your guest to eat?"

The farmer offered him some bread that was made out of rice, he ate it up. Then he offered him some milk, which he also drank up. And then, he offered him some dates that he had in a leather bag, he also ate that up.

After having all that the farmer had offered him, he asked: "Do you know who I am?"

The farmer: "No?"

Khalifa Mahdi: "I am a special person of the Ameerul Mumineen."

The farmer offered him another glass to drink saying: “May Allaah Taala bless you in your duties.”

After a little while, Khalifa Mahdi asked: “Do you know who I am?”

The farmer: “Just a little while ago you said that you were a special person from the Ameerul Mumineen.”

Khalifa Mahdi: “In fact I am the right-hand-man of the Ameerul Mumineen.”

The farmer: “May Allaah Taala bless your city and fulfil all your needs.” Saying this he offered him another glass to drink. After drinking the third glass, Khalifa Mahdi again asked: “do you know who I am?”

The farmer: “Did you not just say a little while ago that you were the Ameerul Mumineen’s right-hand-man?”

Khalifa Mahdi: “In fact I am the Ameerul Mumineen himself.”

The farmer took the drinks and put them away saying: “Get out of here!!! If I have to offer you a fourth glass, then you will start claiming that you a prophet. So, get out of here!!!”

Upon hearing this, Khalifa Mahdi laughed uncontrollably.

In a short while, the servants of Ameerul Mumineen, Khalifa Mahdi entered the tent. Just the awe-inspiring sight of VIP’s entering his tent, made the farmer scared. His face changed in colour. But, Khalifa Mahdi told him: “Do not fear.”

He thanked him for his hospitality and showered him with tremendous gifts.

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## 91. THE INCOMPLETE STORY

Aatika and Hamza were resting against the wall and looking at the pot cooking on the stove. They were happy that something delicious was cooking for them as they saw the steam come out from the pot. Their mother every now and again lifted the lid of the pot and stirred it. Both of them were still young children. Aatika was eight years old and Hamza was five. They were still little and they could not bear the hunger anymore. At last Aatika spoke out: “Mother how much longer?”

“Just wait a little longer.”

“Mother! Make quick I am very hungry.”

Hamza was about to say something too but his mother said: “I know that you are very hungry, just have patience for a little longer.”

“Come here Hamza! Let me tell you an interesting story. By then the food will be ready. Come closer!” mother called.

Aatika: “But I do not want to listen to a story. I am a hungry. I want to eat.”

Hamza: “Why do you not want to listen to a story?”

Aatika: “Well do not listen to a story because of me… I will not even pretend to listen… I will read my own story.”

Aatika was saying all of this continuously. And her mother wanted to say something but she stopped. Tears were filling her eyes. She took Hamza in her lap. Hugged him and kissed him on his cheek. Hamza looked at his mother’s eyes filled with tears. He asked: “O mother! Why you are crying?”

Before even answering, Aatika had already seen the tears in her mother’s eyes. She also started querying. Normally tears would stop. But these tears were continuous.

“Mother! Why are there tears in your eyes?” Hamza asked for the second time.

Mother: “Just like that! Just like that!”

Aatika: “Tears do not just come out like that. There must be something wrong?”

Mother: “No, there's nothing wrong. It’s just that my heart is heavy.”

Aatika: “Mother! You were the one who told us that brave people do not cry. You are brave! And, after father you are our only support.” mother started wiping off her tears.

It was in Islaamnagar that this poor household was left to see to themselves after the death of their father. Aatika and Hamza’s father, Uthman left for work one morning and in the evening when he was returning he met up in an accident. Uthman’s wife, Kulthoom was now left to fend for herself. Her husband was also not well off, whose income was very little, so they could not come out. She did not want to spread her hands out to anyone. She decided to work herself. Everyday she got a little flour from some of the shops, and in this way they survived.

“Mother! Now when is the food going to be ready?” Hamza said, but this time in a rather crying tone.

“Patience, son! Patience!” the food will be ready in a short while.

“But mother, you have been saying this all evening.”

“After all, what is it that is cooking today in the pot that does not want to get done quickly?” Aatika said whilst sitting on the windowsill reading her book.

Mother told her to continue reading her book because the food was getting ready. Aatika browsed through some of the topics in the index and then turned to page fifteen to read a story.

It was winter. The people of Madinah were sleeping in their warm beds. The Khalifah of the time, Umar Farook τ was doing his rounds. He had a blanket covered over him to protect him from the cold. After finishing off the alley areas of Madinah, he saw a light not far away on the outskirts. He proceeded towards the tent and found that crying sounds of little children were coming from the tent.

"Children! Be quiet, the food will be done soon." These were the same words Aatika's mother was saying. "The food will be done soon."
Aatika read on with more interest…

Umar Farook τ made a firm resolve that he will stand outside of the tent until the children became quiet. He stood there for a long time. But neither did the children become quiet nor did the food get done. He became suspicious that there must be something wrong here.

He greeted and asked: "Half the night has passed already but the food is still not done what is the reason for this?"

The lady replied: "This food is such that it will never get cooked."

Umar τ: "Why is that so?"

"There is nothing in the pot that could be cooked. I have just put some stones in it which are boiling."

Umar RA: "How come?"

"I am a widow. I have no one to support me. There is no one who can earn for us. These little children are mine. There is nothing to eat in the house. I have put the stones in the pot just to make as if there was something cooking. This way the children would be at ease thinking that something was cooking."

Umar τ: "Then why have you not told the Khalifah about your condition?"

Lady: "Why should I tell the Khalifah when he is supposed to be seeing to my condition himself? The Khalifah ought to find out himself who was in need. It is his duty to help me."

Aatika thought: "Is it perhaps that our pot too has stones in it?"

Umar Farook τ heard the woman's story and went to the "Baytul Maal (treasury)." He took some flour with some melted butter and returned to the woman's tent. The children were still crying.

Aatika also heard some crying. It was the crying of Hamza. Hamza was now becoming restless and the food was not getting done. "Be quiet brother! Brave children do not cry." Saying this she continued reading her book…

Umar τ took the stones out from the pot and threw the water out. And then prepared the food for the children with his own hands. The children ate and went off to sleep. He felt relieved and left taking the Dua of the lady.

After reading this incident, Aatika felt the experience herself. She and her mother consoled Hamza and made him quiet for a little while. But then he started crying again. He kept asking for food. Mother was silent. Her eyes filled with tears. Aatika put her book down and went towards the pot. The steam was still coming out. She was about to lift the lid off from the pot when mother said: "Oh my child! Do not open the pot."

"Mother! But I want to see what is in the pot that is not getting done."

She lifted the lid of the pot anyway, even though mother tried to stop her. And what did she find? She found stones boiling in the water. She was actually witnessing and experiencing the incident she had just read in her book.

"Oh no mother!" That is all she said.

Mother: "My child! Since yesterday there was a strike and the shops were closed. I could not buy anything. My honour stops me from asking others. What can I do? I am desperate!"

Hamza started crying again.

Aatika: "Then, mother! Who are you waiting for?

Mother: "I am waiting for an Umar to replace the stones with food."

Aatika: "Is it possible for someone like him to be found today?"

"Why not? It is possible, even today" mother held both of them tightly against her.

All three of them were experiencing an incident of the past.

This story needs someone like Umar τ. When an Umar arrives, only then will this incident come to an end, otherwise it will remain half a story.

MORAL: Allaah Taala tests His servants by giving them wealth to see if they are grateful or not. And, sometimes He tests with less wealth to see if we have patience or not. If we have wealth, then we should thank Allaah Ta'ala and be grateful. And if we are poor, then we should exercise patience.

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THE END

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